

*Hafa Adai!*

Torres blames Yutu for tattered CNMI govt finances. **PAGE 3**

CPA: No to Navy control of Tinian airport airspace. **PAGE 5**

**75¢**

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## A thousand new residents

By JON PEREZ  
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REPORTER

President Donald J. Trump yesterday signed H.R. 559 into law, saving the immigration status and livelihood of 1,039 individuals who have worked in the CNMI for decades and call the islands their second home.

### » HR 559 saves parolees' status

H.R. 559, or the Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act, provides a legal remedy for the 1,039 long-term humanitarian parolees and their families—people who are under the categorical parole

See RESIDENTS on Page 4

### 2 missing Toyota vehicles found

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER

Two Toyota vehicles from Atkins Kroll Saipan that were reportedly missing since Monday were found yesterday.

Earlier this week, Atkins Kroll, a Toyota dealership, sought police assistance to locate two missing vehicles from their lot. Both were found yesterday.

According to an AK personnel, See MISSING on Page 4



### BACCALAUREATE MASS

Northern Marianas College graduates pose for a group photo with Chalan Kanoa Bishop Ryan Jimenez and NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico during their baccalaureate Mass last June 25 at the Mount Carmel Cathedral. NMC will be graduating its highest number of students this Saturday, June 29, 2019 at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

NMC

### Manglona explains go-signal for suit vs IPI, contractors

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

While the allegations of seven construction workers do paint Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC

and its two contractors in a negative light, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ruled that that does not necessarily mean she must remove them as "scandalous or impertinent."

Manglona said the facts about the 2016 Occupational Safety and Health Administration inspection and prior accidents at IPI's casino project site in Garapan are relevant to the seven

See MANGLONA on Page 4

### CCC: IPI not likely to succeed on merits

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission asked the court yesterday to dissolve the temporary restraining

order it gave Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, saying IPI is not likely to succeed on the merits of the case.

According to CCC's motion, they See CCC on Page 4

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Alfonso Parongan is sentenced to 30 years in prison for killing his landlord in a fit of rage.

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LJ's Store opens a new location last June 10 along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

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#### WORLD

The man and his daughter lay face down along the bank of the Rio Grande.

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# Local

## GCA students bag 24 awards in PGFC regionals

Grace Christian Academy students bagged 24 major awards as the Primary Grades Forensic Conference concluded with its regional competition last Saturday, April 27, at the Grace Christian Academy on Navy Hill.

Five GCA students won gold medals in five events for both divisions: kindergarten to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

The winners of gold medals in grades K-2 division were En Mei Huang and Hans Ordas. In the grades 3-5 division, the gold medalists were Misako Ota, Min Su Andy Kim, and Arielle Matutino.

Huang, a first-grader at GCA, won first place in Impromptu Speaking and fourth place in Dramatic Interpretation. "I learned some lessons from the football players like I need to work hard and practice in order to win. After the announcement of winners, I was so happy and excited to call my Mom and Dad to tell them that I won first place," she said.

Ordas, a second-grader, won first place in Humorous Interpretation and second place in Impromptu Speaking.

"I love my piece in Humorous Interpretation. It is kind of funny and I was excited to recite it for the judges. I was nervous and also excited in Impromptu Speaking, but I did my best and I let God do the rest. Thanks to my Mom and Dad for coaching me and to Ms. Esther and my GCA family," he said.

The tandem of fourth-graders Misako Ota and Min Su Andy Kim won first place in Duo Interpretation.

Ota, who has been working hard memorizing and practicing with her partner Andy Kim after school, said, "I am happy that my partner and I won first place. It was a fun and worthwhile experience joining PGFC events. I want to thank my great coach, Esther Manzano, who taught me well to be prepared and confident and also my family and friends who supported me in all my school activities."

Kim also thanked his partner. "Our hard work really paid off and we are so happy that we won first place. I am so grateful to my coach, Mrs. Esther, my tutor, Mr. Levi, and my parents. I will try to do my best again next year.

Arielle Matutino, a fourth-grader at GCA, who won first place in both Dramatic Interpretation and Impromptu Speaking, said she was really shocked when they announced



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Grace Christian Academy's Primary Grades Forensic Conference 2019 regional competition winners and finalists have their photo taken inside the school's Rev. Raymond S. Kinsella Library.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Some Grace Christian Academy Primary Grades Forensic Conference participants have their picture taken with their coach, Esther Manzano, as they wait for the announcement of winners after the competition at Grace Christian Academy.

that she won first place in her two events. "It is not easy to win in Impromptu because the topic is about NFL teams. I was quite nervous, but I am thankful to God for giving me the courage and confidence during the competition. Thanks a lot to my coach, Ms. Esther, and especially my mom for always supporting me," she said.

The three silver medalists in the K-2 division were second graders Hannah Gabaldon in Impromptu Speaking, Hans Ordas in Humorous Interpretation, and Qihan Wang in Readers Forum. Third-grader Eliane Nerisse Pagaduan won a silver medal in grades 3-5 division Impromptu Speaking.

The three bronze medalists are all 2<sup>nd</sup> graders: Hannah Gabaldon, Mariska Badal, and Deon Titus Torres. They won third place in Readers Forum, Impromptu Speaking, and Chamorro Readers Forum, respectively.

The list of major awards includes fourth and fifth places. The fourth placers are all in K-2 division. They are first graders En Mei Huang in

Humorous Interpretation and Anne Gabriel Arriola in Impromptu Speaking and second graders Qihan Wang in Dramatic Interpretation and Breanna May Lopez in Reader's Forum.

The fifth placers in the K-2 division are Anne Gabriel Arriola in Impromptu Speaking and Breanna May Lopez in Dramatic Interpretation.

In the 3-5 division, the fifth placers are the third-grade Duo Interpretation of the Llyana Jaira Manalang and Aiyana Victory Fatialofa, the Choral Speaking group of Llyana Jaira Manalang, Aiyana Victory Fatialofa, Avania Clarisse Quichocho and Zeyu Lucas Yuan and Akira Ito's Dramatic Interpretation. The fifth place in Impromptu Speaking by fifth-grader Nestor Ablog Jr. completed the list of major awards.

Grace Christian Academy PGFC coach and coordinator Esther Manzano said the challenge of PGFC competition this year was Impromptu Speaking.

"They patterned it like the National Junior Speech and Debate Association by giv-

ing the topic in advance for the competitors to research. The last topic for the regional competition about the NFL teams was quite hard, even for me. You really need to research about them for you to say something. Giving our students sites to read, printing handouts about the topic, making a speech outline for them to write, and practicing after school helped our students ace the Impromptu Speaking events in both divisions," she said.

The PGFC competition encourages public and private school students to become proficient in reading, public speaking, and interpretations.

The GCA administration, faculty and staff, and parents would like to extend their congratulations to all the winners and thank everyone who participated including the coaches, parents, judges and volunteers in this year's PGFC competitions.

### Final Round Winners

**K-2 DIVISION**  
**Impromptu Speaking**  
En Mei Victoria Huang, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Hans Gabriel Ordas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Mariska Badal, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Anne Gabriel Arriola, 4<sup>th</sup> Place

**Humorous Interpretation**  
Hans Gabrielle Ordas, 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Hannah Gabaldon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
En Mei Victoria Huang, 4<sup>th</sup> Place  
Anne Gabriel Arriola, 5<sup>th</sup> Place

**Dramatic Interpretation**  
Qihan Wang, 4<sup>th</sup> Place  
Breanna May Lopez, 5<sup>th</sup> Place

**Reader's Forum**  
Qihan Wang, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Hannah Gabaldon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Breanna May Lopez, 4<sup>th</sup> Place

**Chamorro Reader's Forum**  
Deon Titus Torres, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

**3-5 DIVISION**  
**Impromptu Speaking**  
Arielle Mae Matutino, 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Eliane Nerisse Pagaduan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Rafael Busby, 4<sup>th</sup> Place  
Nestor Ablog Jr., 5<sup>th</sup> Place

**Dramatic Interpretation**  
Arielle Mae Matutino, 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Akira Ito, 5<sup>th</sup> Place

**Duo Interpretation**  
Misako Ota, 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Min Su Andy Kim, 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Llyana Jaira Manalang, 5<sup>th</sup> Place  
Aiyana Victory Fatialofa, 5<sup>th</sup> Place

**Humorous Interpretation**  
Rooney Gil, 4<sup>th</sup> Place

**Choral Speaking**  
Llyana Jaira Manalang, 5<sup>th</sup> Place  
Aiyana Victory Fatialofa, 5<sup>th</sup> Place  
Avania Clarisse Quichocho, 5<sup>th</sup> Place  
Lucas Zeyu Yuan, 5<sup>th</sup> Place

### First-Third Round Winners

**K-2 DIVISION**  
**Impromptu Speaking**  
**Semi Finalists A**  
En Mei Victoria Huang, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Anne Gabriel Arriola, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

**Impromptu Speaking**  
**Semi Finalists B**  
Hans Gabriel Ordas, 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Mirielle Badal, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Mariska Badal, 5<sup>th</sup> Place

**Readers Forum**  
**Semi Finalists A**  
Qihan Wang, 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Breanna May Lopez, Top 6

**Readers Forum**  
**Semi Finalists B**  
Hannah Gabaldon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

**Readers Forum Quarter Finalists B**  
Hannah Gabaldon, 1<sup>st</sup> Place

**Readers Forum**  
**Quarter Finalists B**  
Breanna May Lopez, 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Qihan Wang, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

### 3-5 DIVISION

#### Impromptu Speaking

#### Semi Finalists A

Janus Roman Calayo, 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Eliane Nerisse Pagaduan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Arielle Mae Matutino, 4<sup>th</sup> Place  
Akira Ito, 5<sup>th</sup> Place

#### Impromptu Speaking Semi Finalists B

Rafael Busby, 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Nestor Ablog Jr., 4<sup>th</sup> Place

#### Duo Interpretation

#### Semi Finalists A

Misako Ota, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Min Su Andy Kim, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Seungwon Ashley Han, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Seungwon Alvin Han, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Llyana Jaira Manalang, Top 6  
Aiyana Victory Fatialofa, Top 6

#### Readers Forum

#### Semi Finalists

Lucas Zeyu Yuan, Top 6  
Nestor Ablog Jr., Top 6  
Rooney Gil, Top 6

#### Readers Forum

#### Quarter Finalists

Lucas Zeyu Yuan, 5<sup>th</sup> Place  
Eliane Nerisse Pagaduan, Top 6  
Avania Clarisse Quichocho, Top 6  
Rooney Gil, Top 6  
Nestor Ablog Jr., Top 6

#### Readers Forum First Round

Eliane Nerisse Pagaduan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Avania Clarisse Quichocho, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Lucas Zeyu Yuan, Top 6  
Rooney Gil, Top 6  
Nestor Ablog Jr., Top 6

### Other Finalists

**K-2 DIVISION**  
**Impromptu Speaking**  
Mirielle Badal

#### Dramatic Interpretation

Aiyana Victory Fatialofa  
Mirielle Badal

### 3-5 DIVISION

**Impromptu Speaking**  
Janus Roman Calayo  
Akira Ito

#### Duo Interpretation

Seungwon Ashley Han  
Seungwon Alvin Han

#### Choral Speaking

Misako Ota  
Min Su Andy Kim  
Seungwon Ashley Han  
Seungwon Alvin Han  
Clarisse Angelique Marzan

#### PGFC Coach/Coordinator:

Esther Manzano

#### Judges/volunteers:

Grace Duran, Marilyn Aldan, Alyssa Jean Pantaleon, Arvin Dayao, Martin Pangilinan, Claude Aquino, Jonathan Lee, Tae Yong Kim, Tae Hee Kim, Eunice Nicole Pagaduan, Angieleysha Punzalan, Claire Angela Marzan, Justin Del Rosario, Anna Nunez, Miriella Dilse



# Parongan sentenced to 30 years for killing woman



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Alfonso Sebastian Parongan, middle, is escorted back to the Department of Corrections following his sentencing hearing yesterday to serve his 30-year sentence for the murder of Josefina Pineda in 2017.

## Torres blames Yutu anew for tattered CNMI govt finances

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Responding to a mounting clamor in the community for more transparency in the CNMI government's finances, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres led several local and federal officials in a public outreach yesterday that sought to do just that.

Torres was joined by Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Finance Secretary David Atalig, Office of Management and Budget director Virginia Vilagomez, and Federal Emergency Management Agency representative Bill Roach in yesterday's public outreach at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Other officials present were Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla Iakopo, Office of Planning and Development director Kodep Ogumoro, and Public Assistance officer Patrick Guerrero.

In his opening statement, Torres again blamed Super Typhoon Yutu as the main cause of the CNMI's current economic and financial situation, which almost zeroed out the government's budget. He detailed the gravity of the disaster that hit the islands of Saipan and Tinian in the last week of October in 2019, when Yutu struck. With winds of 177 miles per hour, Yutu was considered the strongest typhoon ever recorded to hit the CNMI.

The Commonwealth government paid the upfront cost of recovery efforts and will be reimbursed by FEMA later. Debris removal, power restoration, food, fuel for generators of critical agencies, and labor were some of the initial cost that the government shouldered.

At a cost of \$62.5 million,

power restoration got the biggest chunk of the government's expenses after Yutu. Another \$9.1 million went to labor costs and \$8.2 million was spent to transport food and fuel to get people around. A total of \$7.9 million was spent on debris removal.

To date, FEMA has already awarded a total of \$72.7 million in reimbursements to the CNMI while \$15 million more is expected to be remitted soon.

Torres said that Yutu damaged lots of homes, business establishments, and other infrastructure, including power and water distribution, and closed the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport that prevented commercial planes from landing on Saipan.

Yutu greatly impacted the tourism industry—the CNMI's main source of revenue through the hotel occupancy tax and other taxes collected from visitors.

Roach said it is FEMA's responsibility to have all resources at their disposal be readily available when needed after every disaster. However, they have a process in providing assistance, such as reimbursements.

"There's a process that needs to be followed. Our responsibility...is to help local governments and, at the same time, [make them] understand our programs. Reimbursements will get done; just be patient," said Roach.

In her presentation, Iakopo said the CNMI lost about \$19 million in revenue from the business gross revenue taxes, hotel occupancy taxes, and other expenses made by visitors to other business establishments. That amounted to about 21 percent lower revenue than initially projected.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
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REPORTER

After admitting to killing his landlord in a fit of rage following an altercation over rent, Alfonso Sebastian Parongan was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

During a change of plea hearing yesterday, Parongan, 57, admitted to murdering his landlord, Josefina Pineda, while under the influence of drugs and alcohol in 2017. He also admitted to stabbing Pineda's husband, Antonio Barit.

Parongan pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and assault and battery.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho sentenced Parongan to the full maximum sentence of 30 years imprisonment for second-degree murder and full maximum sentence of 10 years for assault and battery. The sentences would run concurrent with one another.

Parongan is not eligible for any release program and is not eligible for parole until he has served 20 years of his sentence.

Parongan was given credit of over one year for time served.

All hearings and the jury tri-

al for Parongan set for October has been vacated.

A copy of the judgement and commitment order would be faxed to the Homeland Security-Immigration and Customs Enforcement and would make Parongan deportable since he is not a U.S. citizen.

During the sentencing, Parongan was given the opportunity to address the court and the family members of Pineda who were present.

He asked for forgiveness and blamed the incident on his excessive use of methamphetamine and because he had been drinking.

Parongan described the events of October 2017 and said that he remembers Pineda asking him to pay his rent and him telling Pineda that he would pay the next day.

"Because I was doing 'ice' I committed the biggest mistake of my life and I'm asking for forgiveness," he kept saying that over and over in Tagalog.

After a heated argument over his late rental payment, Parongan said he went to his kitchen, grabbed a knife, and stabbed his landlord with it.

He also admitted to stabbing Barit multiple times that night.

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## RESIDENTS

From Page 1

program and those holding employment authorization documents—by granting them CNMI resident status within the Commonwealth.

Trump's decision to sign the bill ends almost five months of hearings, lobbying, and efforts to pass the immigration legislation in the U.S. Congress.

News of the enactment of H.R. 559 spread quickly in the CNMI community.

John and Feng, two of the 1,039 individuals who are eligible to avail of the CNMI-only resident status and asked to be named only through aliases, welcomed the news. They have been legally working in the CNMI since the mid 2000s and were later given humanitarian parole.

All legal workers in the CNMI were given umbrella permits as immigration and labor laws began to transition to federal statutes in 2009, while waiting for regulations under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker visa to be formulated by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

After the regulations were set, employers applied for CW-1 permits for their workers while those who failed to get jobs or companies that would hire them applied for humanitarian parole—especially those who have children born in the Commonwealth, spouses or immediate relatives of Freely Associated States citizens, stateless individuals who were born before the enactment of the Covenant, and caregivers.

"Thank you very much, Lord!" was John's first words when contacted by the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. "I'm now relieved. The stress and sleepless nights worrying about our status are over."

John, Feng, and the other 1,037 individuals who are under the categorical parole program and EAD holders would have been forced to leave the CNMI if Trump did not sign H.R. 559 before June 29. USCIS terminated the program in December last year but gave the 1,039 affected individuals until June 29 to obtain other U.S. legal and work-related visas.

For John, it was a gamble that paid off. He took the

chance of waiting for the legislation to become law. "I just gambled. I just took the chance to wait for President Trump to sign the bill. I just really prayed and waited that we could get improved status."

Feng also welcomed the news. "I'm very happy and also relieved. I have three kids who were all born here. Itos [Feliciano] has been one of those who have helped us in our situation. He explained to us what's been happening with the bill."

Feliciano, one of the individuals who helped organize the foreign workers under the program, thanked all CNMI officials that helped in having the bill signed into law. "I want to take this opportunity to thank all the people who helped push H.R. 559 into law: Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, [Delegate] Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, chief of staff Angel Demapan, Irene Holl, and to all who believed, supported and prayed for it to happen. We are forever grateful..."

The new law applies to all immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and other stateless individuals, CNMI permanent residents and their IRs, IRs of

citizens of Freely Associated States (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau), and certain in-home caregivers of CNMI residents.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced H.R. 559 last Jan. 15. It passed the House on June 3. The Senate acted on it on June 24 via voice vote and then headed to Trump for signing.

### NMI officials grateful

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Trump signing the bill into law is the result of months of hard work with the parolees, their families, the White House, the U.S. Congress, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"My office, through... Jason Osborne, and I have been closely working with the White House for an expedient approval of the bill since Congress passed it a week ago," said Torres in a statement. "I'm grateful that the President took the time to listen to our concerns in order to protect our economy and the many families who have called the Marianas home."

He also thanked Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) for her help in the Senate and the combined efforts of Sablan and Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) in the House to get the bill passed.

He also credits the private sector and community leaders for helping.

"This truly is another shared victory for the Marianas," he said.

Among those eligible to earn the benefits of the new law are 800 spouses and parents of U.S. citizens, 50 in-home caregivers, five persons born in the Commonwealth before the Covenant, and persons who had been given permanent resident status under CNMI law in the early 1980s, Sablan said.

"This was the final step in a long, long process that began with [the bill's] introduction on Jan. 15. ...I am so grateful to them all," said Sablan.

CNMI House Federal and Foreign Affairs chair Rep. Luis John DLG Castro (R-Saipan) said the new bill gives

those affected "a little peace of mind."

"These individuals are not just workers. For many of us, some of them are our friends, neighbors, and even relatives and...[this] gives them assurance that tomorrow is guaranteed for them to continue to make a living here in the Northern Marianas," he added.

He added that the CNMI still faces many issues. "There are still many issues in this parameter that we...must tackle. And in order for us to square these issues out, we must continue to work in tandem with our governor, our voice in Congress and our federal and local partners."

Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio Arago said the enactment of H.R. 559 is good news for Filipinos in the CNMI. However, he hopes that H.R. 560 will also become law, as it covers about 4,000 other Filipinos.

"There are Filipinos who have worked in the island for 15 to 20-plus years, waiting to be recognized," Arago said. *(With Marc Venus)*

## MANGLONA

From Page 1

workers' claims and would not unnecessarily complicate the workers' lawsuit.

Manglona made the ruling in her order Monday denying the motions filed by IPI, and contractors Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC and MCC International, who are being sued by the seven workers over the injuries they suffered during accidents at the casino project worksite.

IPI, Gold Mantis, and MCC filed motions to dismiss the lawsuit, sought more definite statements, and sought to remove certain paragraphs in the suit.

The plaintiffs, who are all Chinese nationals, are suing the three companies for alleged forced labor in violation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization

Act and CNMI Anti-Trafficking Act, negligence, and liability for employees of subcontractor.

The workers alleged that they were forced to work long hours for below minimum wage under extremely dangerous conditions at the casino worksite.

IPI sought to remove certain paragraphs in the lawsuit, describing them as "impertinent, immaterial, and scandalous."

These paragraphs come under the heading "Defendants utterly disregarded the safety of the workers" and discussed injuries suffered by other workers and the 2016 OSHA inspection and report.

IPI argued that the court should remove these paragraphs because plaintiffs do not connect or show a nexus between those allegations and their claims and that they are meant only to create prejudice against IPI.

The workers, however, countered that these paragraphs contain allegations that are directly relevant to its claims because defendants' refusal to grant OSHA access to the worksite shows that they were aware of the illegal workers and sought to conceal them from federal authorities.

The workers also argued that the injuries of other workers and unsafe work conditions support their negligence claim and show reckless indifference.

In her order, Manglona said that, taken together and viewing the facts and circumstances, the plaintiffs appear to have received immigration threats and financial threats.

Manglona said it is alleged that the employers intended for the seven to believe that immigration harm would befall them and the allegations are sufficient to state a claim of serious harm.

On the plaintiffs' CNMI anti-trafficking claim, Manglona found that plaintiffs have stated a plausible claim under the CNMI statute.

On the negligence claim, IPI argued that this claim is barred by the exclusivity provision of the CNMI Workers Compensation Act.

WCA provides for compensation for disabilities "resulting from an injury or illness arising out of and in the course of employment."

IPI asserted that because it maintained workers compensation insurance coverage, plaintiffs' claim, either as IPI employees or employees of its subcontractors, come within the WCA and are barred because plaintiffs did not file a claim within one year of their injuries.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

one of the missing vehicles, a 2019 Toyota Tacoma, was found behind the dealership near the Marianas Visitors Authority building yesterday morning. Police later found the second vehicle, a 2018 Toyota RAV4, in Gualo Rai.

The Department of Public Safety is still investigating the incident and there are currently no suspects.

Atkins Kroll's Ernie Galito said in a short phone interview that AK would like to hold off from issuing an official statement in order to give police a chance to thoroughly investigate the incident without any disruptions.

For those who may have information related to any of the two vehicles, contact DPS at 911 or the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272.

According to a DPS statement, DPS responded at about 3:55pm last Tuesday to a report of two missing vehicles from the AK Saipan Toyota dealership.

At about 4:05pm, officers arrived at the scene and met with one of the managers of the dealership and were informed that a brand-new white 2019 pre-runner Toyota Tacoma, with no license plates, was missing from the vicinity and could not be accounted for.

The manager also informed the officer that another vehicle, a dark brown 2018 Toyota RAV4 with the license plate number AFM 101, was also missing.

According to an employee tasked with preparing the vehicle for pre-delivery on Monday, he parked the Taco-

ma near one of the AK-Kroll buildings and left the keys inside as he continued to prepare other vehicles for pre-delivery. At about 4pm, the employee was about to clock out when he noticed that the Tacoma was not where he had parked it. The employee did not think anything of it as he thought it was moved by another employee.

The following day, the employee was supposed to continue prepping the Tacoma for pre-delivery but could not locate the vehicle within the lot. The employee then notified one of the managers that he was not able to find the Tacoma.

The manager spoke with the sales staff and asked if the Tacoma had been delivered to the customer, but was told that they had not called the customer to pick up the vehicle.

The manager then went out into the yard with a few employees to check if it could be anywhere in the lot but to no avail. He then instructed an employee to check if the Tacoma was not accidentally parked at the dealership's other lots.

When the Tacoma could not be found, the manager informed the general manager and called 911 for assistance.

The missing RAV4, a lease vehicle, reportedly went in for service on Monday at about 8:44am. The following day, an administrative staff requested for an update on the status of the RAV4 so she could input the information into the computer.

The technicians notified the administrative staff that no one had worked on the RAV4 and later confirmed that the vehicle was also not in the area.

## CCC

From Page 1

believe the court should dissolve the TRO because IPI has "no likelihood" to succeed on the merits of the case, among other reasons.

"[IPI] has no likelihood of success on the merits. [CCC] suffers greater harm due to the existence of the restraining order; the public interest strongly militates toward the release and the inspection of the information which [IPI] seeks to keep confidential," CCC said in its motion.

CCC is represented by Office of Attorney General's Michael Ernest and Benjamin Petersburg. The case is being handled by Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo.

According to CCC, IPI is not entitled to a TRO, preliminary injunction, or even a permanent injunction because they ultimately will not succeed in preventing CCC from allowing public inspection of the information it has collected.

CCC explains that IPI will not succeed in prohibiting the disclosure of their tax information for many reasons,

including the fact that Commonwealth law requires the commission to obtain and make public the information that IPI wants to keep confidential, that IPI has no privacy rights because it is not a person, and because the matter is time-barred, according to Commonwealth law.

CCC also argues that CCC suffers greater harm because of the potential criminal penalties that could be imposed on the commission for violating the Commonwealth's gaming laws.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, IPI is suing CCC to prevent it from mak-

ing public confidential tax information pursuant to an Open Government Act request; it has already obtained a temporary restraining order to stop the release of the information.

IPI is suing CCC for their plans to disclose IPI tax return information that they claim is protected under a provision of the CNMI Constitution.

IPI, as an exclusive casino license holder, is subject to reporting requirements with CCC which include, but are not limited to, the monthly reporting of information relating to its Business Gross Revenue Tax returns.



## CPA: No to Navy control of Tinian airport airspace

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is strongly opposed to the U.S. Navy's plan to include the airspace around the Tinian International Airport in the restrictive area of a divert landing strip it plans to build on the island.

CPA transmitted letters to the Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Navy on June 21, 2019, making its opposition known.

This was in response to an April 30, 2019, "Memorandum to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration" authored by U.S. Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer that sought unspecified but appropriate "relief" from the airspace protections over the Tinian airport.

CPA's responses highlighted the fact that the Navy's request to remove airspace protections over the Tinian airport would effectively turn control of that airspace over to the Navy. CPA noted that the Navy made this request without communicating or consulting with CPA and that these actions have harmed CPA's relationship with the U.S. Department of Defense. The letters stated that the removal of those airspace protections creates many issues that should have been discussed prior to the Navy submitting its request.

CPA board chair Kimber-

lyn King-Hinds said, "From our perspective, [the Navy's memorandum] reflects the historic and callous policy of United States' westward expansion, seizing property as it justifies for security or any other reason and in complete disregard of the interests of those already there."

"Living here, we well know the strategic value of our islands located on the western frontier of our country."

"That a primary justification for seeking this change was to facilitate unilateral live-fire Japanese military training on Tinian only further demonstrates the overall insensitivity of [the Navy's] action and callous dis-

regard to not only CPA but the people who will be detrimentally impacted by this action."



King-Hinds

She also contrasted the previous good faith cooperation between the United States and CPA with

the Navy's current actions: "Your letter is an apparent indication, if not an admission, that the Department of the Navy no longer seeks good-faith interactions or negotiations with CPA regarding future activities of the Department of the Navy in the CNMI."

CPA's opposition also expressed its disagreement with the Navy's "unsupported and summary presumption that current FAA Orders do not impact the airspace over Pagan," con-

cluding that the Navy's oversight of CPA's statutory interest in developing the Pagan airfield for public use "is a clear indication" of the Navy's lack of knowledge on the CNMI.

"I recommend that the [U.S.] Navy respond to CPA's opposition in earnest and attempt to rectify the damage the [U.S.] Navy's Memorandum has done to CPA's level of trust in dealings with the [U.S.] Department of Defense," said King-Hinds.

The U.S. Navy has yet to provide a response to CPA. **(PR)**



### MPLT MEETING

Marianas Public Land Trust board members listen to their legal counsel, Robert Torres, as he discusses a point in Monday's meeting at their office on Capital Hill. The MPLT board has yet to decide on the request of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for a line of credit but they are now ready to start negotiating the terms of the LOC.

JON PEREZ

## Finance remits \$252K to MVA

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Finance remitted \$252,000 in hotel occupancy tax collection to the Marianas Visitors Authority last Friday but, according to acting MVA chair Gloria Cavanagh, "It's not enough."

At MVA's board meeting last Tuesday, MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo stated that it was disclosed at a previous board meeting that MVA is short of \$4,333 per payroll.

With Finance's remittance of \$252,000, Iakopo said they are able to cover that shortage.

If MVA were to exclude its offshore promotions for the end of fiscal year 2019, total personnel and operational expenses would be \$306,727 on the 80-hour work per pay period, she said.

On the 72-hour and 64-hour work per pay period, it would be \$271,193 and \$237,259, respectively.

In an interview, Cavanagh, who presided over the meeting, pointed out that the recent remittance payment just covers the December 2018 hotel occupancy tax collection.

Prior to last Friday's remittance, Finance had yet to remit over \$4 million in hotel occupancy tax collection to MVA, she said.

Cavanagh said they understand that the \$252,000 is what Finance can afford to remit right now.

"I believe they are trying their best efforts to make payment," she said, adding that there are still items and commitments from the government that Finance needs to pay.

She believes part of that commitment is the payment to the NMI Settlement Fund.

Cavanagh said majority of MVA's funding goes to promotion and marketing offshores.

"This is only entity in the government where payroll and operating expenses are such a small part of the budget. It's the offshore accounts that we have to deal with," she added.

Starting last Sunday, MVA cut the regular 80 work hours of its 36 employees in the CNMI, including that of managing director Priscilla Maratita Iakopo, to just 72 hours.

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# Skydiver of previous wreck on Hawaii plane ‘extremely upset’

By CALEB JONES  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—A man who was involved in a terrifying 2016 skydiving accident on the same plane that crashed and killed 11 people in Hawaii on Friday says he wishes he could have done more to prevent the tragedy.

“Frankly I was just upset. I was extremely upset,” Achal Asawa, 29, an experienced skydiver from the San Francisco Bay area, told The Associated Press on Monday. “The first thing that came to my mind was could there have been anything else I could have done back then to prevent this from happening in Hawaii.”

Asawa was aboard the same plane three years ago when it stalled and went into a spinning nosedive. He and several other skydivers were able to open the door and jump to safety.

Asawa said skydiving is generally safe, but participants need to be able to trust the aircrafts they fly in.

“When any skydiver is getting on a plane we are assuming that the plane is going to function as it is expected to,” Asawa said. “That assumption is based on the trust we place on the government and who-



This Sunday, June 23, 2019, photo released by the National Transportation Safety Board shows NTSB investigator Elliott Simpson briefing NTSB Board Member Jennifer Homendy at the scene of the Hawaii skydiving crash in Oahu, Hawaii.

ever is responsible for making sure that these planes are functioning.”

He hopes that the accident he was involved in three years ago has nothing to do with Friday’s crash, but thinks regulators, inspectors and operators may need to do more to ensure safety.

“Whatever is required to make sure that trust does not break,” he said.

The National Transportation Safety Board on Monday called on the Federal Aviation Administration to tighten its regulations governing parachute operations after the Hawaii crash.

The NTSB recommended to the FAA more than a decade ago that it strengthen its rules on pilot training, aircraft maintenance and inspection, and FAA oversight, board member Jennifer Homendy told a news conference in Honolulu.

She said the FAA hasn’t acted on those recommendations.

“Are we trying to put the FAA on notice for this? Yes,” Homendy said. “We identified several safety concerns in 2008 with respect to parachute jump operations. Accidents continue to happen. There have been fatalities since that time.”

FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said in a statement that safety is the agency’s top priority.

“The FAA takes NTSB recommendations very seriously, and implemented a number of changes to address recommendations the NTSB made about parachuting operations,” the statement said.

Of the 2016 accident, Asawa said nothing was out of the ordinary until the plane made an abnormally slow, steep turn and went into a spinning nosedive.

The plane stalled three times and spun repeatedly as skydivers on board struggled to jump out. The force created by the rotation of the plane pinned them down, Asawa said.

“All I wanted to do was raise my hands up,” he recalled. “The forces were so strong that I didn’t have the amount of strength required to just raise my hands.”

He said everyone around him was trying to save themselves. Asawa took video of the accident that shows the plane spinning and nosediving toward the ground after he and other skydivers bailed out.

As he made his descent, a piece of debris from the plane can be seen slicing through the air beneath him.

The National Transportation Safety Board blamed pilot error in that accident. Its investigation said the plane lost a piece of horizontal stabilizer and its elevator broke off. Investigators also concluded the plane was too heavily weighted toward the back, which was also blamed on the pilot.

The pilot managed to land the plane safely after everyone else escaped. The aircraft was then repaired before being sent to Oahu and flown again.

“We will be looking at the quality of those repairs and whether it was inspected and whether it was airworthy,” the NTSB’s Homendy said Sunday.

Since the accident, Asawa

had only seen the plane in photos posted by skydiving buddies online.

“I saw pictures of some of my friends who went to Hawaii and took a picture with the plane,” Asawa said.

“I was under the impression that the plane is 100% fixed,” he said. “Until this incident happened.”

When the plane crashed on Friday, it became the deadliest civil aviation accident in the United States since a 2011.

Seven of the 11 victims from Friday’s crash have been identified by city officials. There were 10 men and one woman aboard the plane, which was operated by Oahu Parachute Center on the island’s North Shore.

## JKPL hosts internet camp

The Joeten-Kiyu Library is hosting its 2019 Internet Camp comprising two sessions that will be separated into different age groups.

Section A will be for children ages 6 to 8 and Section B will be for children ages 9 to 12.

Section A will be from July 23 to July 26; all seats for this session have already been filled.

Section B will be from July 30 to Aug 2. As of yesterday, there are 15 seats remaining.

Both camps will be from 9:30am to 12pm.

Registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

This camp will introduce participants to the importance of the internet, and provide tips on how to surf the internet safely and what to avoid while browsing. The camp will also introduce typing classes and educational games.

Interested participants must have a library card that are free of fines.

For more information, contact Joey Songsong at JKPL at (670) 235-7329. (Marc Venus)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re General Order

NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS AND  
ORDER TO APPEAR

Name	Case Name	Case Number
1. Justthis Ayuyu	CNMI v. Justthis Ayuyu	DPS Case No. 15-003820
2. Ramon Manahane	CNMI v. Ray S. Manahane	TR -95-09303
3. Genciana Dusdos	CNMI v. Genciana Dusdos	TR-91-02714
4. Chelita B. Fejeran	CNMI v. Jeffrey B. Manalo	CR-09-0150
5. Leora Ngirablosch	CNMI v Leora M. Ngirablosch	TR-15-02058
6. Melisa T. Faimaw	CNMI v. Jeffrey Yanruw	CR-16-0114
7. Wirantri Sukjai Truss	CNMI v. Donald S. Pangelinan	CR-16-0183
8. Richard Jose Langunero	CNMI v. Richard Jose Langunero	TR-14-02799
9. Wei Xiang Li	CNMI v. Wei Xiang Li	TR-17-02077
10. Hu Yin	CNMI v. Hu Yin	TR-17-02760

The aforementioned parties shall have until Monday, December 23, 2019 to make a claim with the Judiciary for the return of these funds. In order to make a claim, parties must complete a form, which is available at the Clerk of Court’s window. Upon completion, parties shall submit the original and two photocopies of the form, together with two photocopies of a valid passport and/or government-issued photo identification, to the Clerk of Court located at Door Window 1 of the Guma Hustisia, Iimwaal Aweewe on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Claims must be submitted to the Clerk of Court and may be brought from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday of each week. Any funds belonging to the parties named above that remain unclaimed after Monday, December 23, 2019 may be forfeited and turned over to the Commonwealth General Fund. On December 27, 2019 all parties named above shall appear before Associate Judge Joseph Camacho in Courtroom 212A at the Marianas Business Plaza at 10:00 a.m. and await the call of his or her claim by case number and captioned parties. Parties must bring a copy of their claim form with them when appearing for this court proceeding.

ENTERED June 27, 2019.

/s/ ROBERTO C. NARAJA  
Presiding Judge

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation  
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
CUC-RFP-19-013, Rev.1

AGINGAN PRIMARY SCREEN PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the attainment of a Primary Screen for the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant at CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-work will be emailed to all registered prospective proposers email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

**One (1) original and four (4) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RFP-19-013, Rev.1 Agingan Primary Screen Project” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **July 19, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Proponents shall comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 2, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator at email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Westen Knudsen, P.E., Senior Engineer for Water/Wastewater at email address [westen.knudsen@cucgov.org](mailto:westen.knudsen@cucgov.org) and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrative Technician, Senior at email address [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator



# Garapan stakeholders look to Waikiki as possible template

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The experience of Waikiki and its transformation into a strong tourism hot spot in Hawaii is being looked at as a possible template for the revitalization of Garapan. Toward that end, CNMI stakeholders have brought in two Waikiki experts who could give the CNMI some idea about how to go about it.

Former Honolulu mayor Mufi Hannemann and Waikiki Improvement Association president Rick Egged did a presentation during a stakeholder meeting yesterday about how Waikiki created the Business Improvement District, or BID, which spearheaded efforts to make Waikiki a clean, safe, vibrant resort destination that reflects its Hawaiian heritage.

Office of Planning and Development deputy director Christopher A. Concepcion said they are working with Hannemann and Egged because of their experience.

Hannemann is currently the president and chief executive officer of Hawaii Lodging & Tourism Association. Egged is president of the Waikiki Improvement Association, which was formed in 2000 to manage the BID.

Concepcion said Hannemann and Egged's expertise is going to help the OPD in forming a similar organization if this is the path CNMI leaders want for Garapan.

"At the end of the day, we need our leaders on Capit[a] Hill to give us the green light if that's the way to go forward," he said.

Hannemann and Egged served as the guest speakers at the stakeholder meeting hosted by OPD, Saipan Zoning Office, and the Garapan Revitalization Task Force at Fiesta Resort & Spa's Azucena Room. Businessmen, business representatives, some lawmakers and government officials, and community members attended the meeting.

To create and establish a BID here, there should be strong support from business leaders, Egged said. He cautioned, though, that it won't be easy.

In a later interview, he pointed out that the Garapan Revitalization Plan itself was created in 2007 but there's been minimal progress in executing that plan. He said the Garapan Revitalization Plan is a good plan and other things could be added to it and creating a BID would be a good

## » Concepcion: A strong need to revitalize Garapan

mechanism to do that.

He said the BID is a tool for the business community to participate in the planning effort with the CNMI government and thus bring about the revitalization of Garapan.

This is Egged's third visit to Saipan. He first came in 2013 and returned two years later.

Egged said OPD recently invited him to work on the idea of creating a BID to execute the Garapan revitalization district.

Egged said their association was created in 2000, but it took them 10 years to get to the point that they turned Waikiki around.



Hannemann



Egged

Egged said BIDs are common across in the U.S. and they are all different, depending on the needs of a particular area. It is for the business community and the community to decide what kind of BID they want. BID's, he said, have to be tailored to the community.

"You can do it this way, you can do it that way," he said.

Hannemann said that revitalizing Garapan is long overdue and creating a BID is an opportunity. He said the BID is a model that they used in Waikiki to create a public-private sector partnership in funding many of the improvements that needed to take place.

He said revitalizing an area creates positive experiences not only for tourists but also for residents.

"Everything that we try to do there is an opportunity to also enhance the residents' experience, the residents who work in Waikiki, and the those who frequent the area," he said.

He said BID doesn't just benefits the hotels but also the numerous small businesses, the retail stores, and restaurants.

"It worked very well in Waikiki," said the former mayor, adding that his presentation on Saipan is the result of many conversations with Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, the late governor Eloy S. Inos,

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios.

"They're all very strongly supportive of making sure that we put something in place that will lead to a better Garapan, better tourism industry, better quality of life to all the people of the Commonwealth," he said.

Concepcion said his main task is to focus on the Garapan Revitalization Task Force.

"We see that there is really a strong need to revitalize Garapan—the center of economic activity, the center of the tourism industry in the CNMI," he said.

Concepcion said Garapan needs to be enhanced, to be clean, to be brought up to par with international standards.

"We need to do that here so that we don't fall behind other destinations. It's highly competitive out there," he said.

The idea is that, if the focus is on Garapan being the main tourism center, they believe that there will be a ripple effect on the rest of the CNMI economy.

"Once you start focusing here, fixing things up, putting in the infrastructure...that kind of positive vibe will spread to the rest of the community," he said.

Concepcion said everybody is going to benefit from it, not just Garapan and the businesses and the residents in the area. "I think everybody in the CNMI will benefit from it because of the economic activity that will take place," he said.

Funding is an issue right now and, with the government not having enough resources to pump to Garapan at this time, what the CNMI needs is to tap other sources and not necessarily just the businesses, Concepcion said.

He said there are federal grants that are able to pay for certain projects if dealing with infrastructure.

Since Saipan is much smaller than Waikiki, that area's experience is something the island can learn from, Concepcion said.

As a resident who has been intimately involved in the CNMI tourism industry for many years, he believes it is important that there are proper sidewalks, curbs, drainages, gutters, landscaping, and lighting in Garapan.

Concepcion said Hannemann and Egged are going to make some recommendations. The Garapan Revitalization Task Force will then be revived, "then make sure that we all come into agreement on something if we're going to move forward with anything," he said.



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## USCIS expands digital FOIA system

Additionally, Gregorio Concepcion Tyquiengco, who had served as a juror in the case of *United States v. Raymond John Martinez and Juanita*

Starting yesterday, FOIA requestors with a USCIS online account can submit requests online for their own records.

“As USCIS continues to move the nation’s legal immigration system away from paper-based services to an electronic future, I am excited to implement the first fully digital FOIA system, and the benefits it will bring for FOIA requestors who take advantage of this service,” said Kenneth Cuccinelli, acting director of USCIS. “FIRST

To establish a USCIS online account to take advantage of FIRST, visit [first.uscis.gov](http://first.uscis.gov). **(PR)**

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will be hosting a film screening and presentations for its first-ever LGBTQ event called PRIDE Talks on June 27, at the Regal Cinemas, from 4pm to 9pm. The event is free and doors will open at 4pm. The film, *Boy Erased*, is rated R (restricted); no one under 18 will be admitted due to the graphic content of the film. The first 100 people will receive a free small popcorn and drink as well as a PRIDE T-shirt. The total seating is for 199, therefore seating is limited. At 6pm the movie will be screened. Once it ends at 8pm, there will be panel presentations, with questions and answers to follow each presentation. For more information call the council at 235-4785 or email at [info@nmhcouncil.org](mailto:info@nmhcouncil.org). **(PR)**

The job opportunity is a temporary, full-time position.

Send Employment Application at Torres Refrigeration, Inc. Office, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday at Commerce Pl., Airport Road, San Vicente or to mailing address at P.O. Box 500714, by Fax at (670)235-1662 or email to Joseph T. Torres at [jttorres@pticom.com](mailto:jttorres@pticom.com).







## Rotary installs new officers, names 'Citizen of the Year'

The new officers and directors pose for a photo. From left: Superior Court Associate Judge Perry Inos, who swore in the new officers; Brian Clayton, Agnes McPhetres, Sean Ficke, Sonya Dancoe, Tatiana Babauta, Marcia Ayuyu, Dave Guerrero, Irene Holl, Curtis Dancoe, Wendell Posadas, and Greg Borja.

REICA RAMIREZ

By **REICA RAMIREZ**  
reicajramirez@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

The Rotary Club of Saipan installed new officers and directors last Tuesday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan, during which the club also named and presented awards to its Rotarian of the Year and Citizen of the Year.

Marcia Ayuyu is the club's new president. Dave Guerrero was recognized as Rotarian of the Year, while Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero was recognized as its Citizen of the Year.

The club's other new officers are Sean Ficke as vice president, Tatiana Babauta as secretary, Guerrero as treasurer, and Curtis Dancoe as sergeant-at-arms.

The president-elect is Sonya Dancoe.

The club's new directors are Irene Holl for club service, Brian Clayton for community service, Greg Borja for international service, Agnes McPhetres for the Rotary Foundation, Wendell Posadas for vocational service, and Ivan Ilmov for new generation.

In her first speech as the club's new president, Ayuyu outlined several goals she plans to achieve during her term. That includes increasing the number of club members, the club adopting two more bus stops to maintain, and installing the Rotary Club of Saipan flag at the airport.

Additionally, Ayuyu encouraged her fellow Rotarians to "double the commitment to better our community for the present and future generations." She asked them to remember why they joined the club in the first place.

"Our service connects us to people who share our values, who want to take action for a better world. It connects us to people who need our help, allowing us to change lives in our community," Ayuyu said as she explained the year's theme: "Rotary connects the world."

Guerrero, who was honored

as the Rotarian of the Year for his commitment and leadership, said, "I'm the outgoing treasurer and the incoming treasurer at the same time. So I haven't left my duties. I look forward to serving the club."

Deleon Guerrero, who was chosen as Citizen of the Year for his commitment to learn-

ing, achievements in education, and his dedication to teach, coach, and mentor students, said his greatest reward is "seeing his older students succeed long after school, whether as pioneers in business, innovators in education, or leaders in our community."

This award is voted on by



Dave Guerrero, right, receives the Rotarian of the Year award last Tuesday at the Pacific Islands Club, during the Rotary Club of Saipan's installation of new officers and directors. At left is past Rotary Club president Greg Borja.

REICA RAMIREZ



Galvin Deleon Guerrero speaks after being recognized as the Rotary Club of Saipan Citizen of the Year.

REICA RAMIREZ



Marcia Ayuyu delivers her message as the new Rotary Club of Saipan president.

REICA RAMIREZ

the council of past presidents.

Mike Sablan, a past president, said the club has rec-

ognized a Citizen of the Year since 1980. "Every year, [the council of past presidents] has

bestowed our club's highest honor upon one individual in our community," Sablan said.



**UNITED STATES**  
**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**



## NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 3rd Quarter General Membership Meeting on June 28, 2019, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the LaoLao Bay & Golf Resort, Caladium Hall.

### AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of June 28, 2019
- IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2019
- V. Reports
  - a. Chairperson
  - b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
  - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
  - d. Executive Director
- VI. Old Business
  - a. DDEAM Update
- VII. New Business
  - a. Emergency Preparedness Focus Group Meeting
  - b. CIRCLES/PRE-ETS Transition Symposium
- VIII. Action Items
- IX. Miscellaneous
- X. Next Meeting
- XI. Adjournment

*Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.*

/s/ Efren Nicholas  
Chairperson

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# Opinion

## *Hafa Adair* Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Deportation threats don't fix immigration

Last week, President Donald Trump fired up his base by threatening to deport millions of immigrants. On Saturday, he backed off, ostensibly so House Democrats could pass immigration reform in the next two weeks. Good luck with that.

Give Trump credit for one thing: His ham-handed, bigoted approach to immigration at the southern border has focused national attention on the issue. If only that attention could translate into real policy progress and not just morally bankrupt enforcement.

Trump's deportation threat was the typical hyperbole from a man who admits to thriving on chaos. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement lacks the resources and agents to round up millions quickly. ICE planned to target about 2,000 families in 10 cities, initially. The threat played well with Trump's base anyway.

In fairness, the targeted families had lost their legal standing to remain in the country. They have missed immigration or asylum hearings or had deportation orders filed against them. It's difficult to criticize the executive branch for enforcing the law.

But it's fair to criticize Trump for enforcing the law in the most belligerent and odious way. His threatened raids targeted adults with children. Many of those children would have been separated from their parents, and some are even U.S. citizens.

The threat alone was enough to spark a small panic in immigrant communities across the country, not least because the administration has already demonstrated that it is heartless in its enforcement of immigration law. Children continue to suffer in detention centers while Trump grandstands.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat from San Francisco, called Trump on Friday and asked him to postpone the deportation sweeps. Trump agreed, but said it was only for a couple of weeks so Congress could reform asylum laws.

Democrats insist they will not compromise on their core principles of protecting immigrants and their right to seek asylum. In other words, the same loggerheads between House Democrats and the Trump White House will not likely break now.

Maybe if the House passes some other immigration bill, such as the one that would allocate \$4.5 billion for addressing the humanitarian crisis at the border, Trump could declare victory and this mess would go away.

The nation does need comprehensive immigration reform including an update to the asylum process, but that will not likely emerge in two weeks under the threat of Trump's deportation gun.

(c)2019 The Seattle Times



### Children are dying. Don't look away

Children are suffering in migrant camps along our southern border. They are living in cramped, filthy conditions. Many are sick. Six have died since last year.

These are children. They have done nothing wrong. How they got here shouldn't matter. Whose fault it is that they're here shouldn't matter. They are here, and one of the wealthiest and most powerful countries in the world is failing to care for them in even the most marginally humane way.

Read these descriptions from a series of recent news reports from the border. Read them. Don't skim over them, and don't look away, because they describe horrors that we, as Americans, are tolerating.

From The Associated Press: "A 2-year-old boy locked in detention wants to be held all the time. A few girls, ages 10 to 15, say they've been doing their best to feed and soothe the clingy toddler who was handed to them by a guard days ago. Lawyers warn that kids are taking care of kids, and there's inadequate food, water and sanitation for the 250 infants, children and teens at the Border Patrol station."

The story continued: "Three girls told attorneys they were trying to take care of the 2-year-old boy, who had wet his pants and had no diaper and was wearing a mucus-smeared shirt when the legal team encountered him."

From an ABC News report on Friday:

"At another Border Patrol station in McAllen, Texas, attorney Toby Gialluca said all the children she talked to last week were very sick with high fevers, coughing and wearing soiled clothes crusted with mucus and dirt after their long trip north. 'Everyone is sick. Everyone. They're using their clothes to wipe mucus off the children, wipe vomit off the children. Most of the little children are not fully clothed,' she said."

ABC News also obtained a medical declaration from board-certified physicians who visited two border patrol holding facilities in Texas two weeks ago. In that declaration, physician Dolly Lucio Sevier wrote: "The conditions within which they are held could be compared to torture facilities."

The children were experiencing extreme cold temperatures. They were in holding areas where the lights were left on 24 hours a day. They weren't able to wash their hands. Teen mothers weren't able to wash out bottles for their babies.

Sevier wrote that all the children she saw at the facilities showed signs of trauma.

And what have we been doing? We've been debating whether it's fair to call these places concentration camps. The Justice Department last week had an attorney in court actually arguing that the government shouldn't be required to provide these children—children, for God's sake—with soap or toothbrushes or beds.

Forget the politics that surround immigration. You can love or

By **REX HUPPKE**  
Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a Chicago Tribune columnist. Readers may send him email at [rhuppke@chicagotribune.com](mailto:rhuppke@chicagotribune.com).



hate the idea of a border wall. You can feverishly demand tougher immigration and asylum laws and hunger to see undocumented immigrants rounded up and deported, or you can scream that such steps are draconian and plead for more compassionate policies.

You can shout "We're a nation of laws!" until you're blue in the face, or bellow the clearly incorrect words "We're better than this!" ad infinitum.

But you cannot call yourself an American and say that children—any children—deserve to suffer at our hands. You cannot say that.

So set aside the partisanship and the political gamesmanship and save it for another day.

The facilities along the border aren't meant to hold this many kids, and border patrol agents are clearly overwhelmed. John Sanders, acting commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, said as much last week and asked lawmakers to pass an emergency funding package that would provide close to \$3 billion to care for migrant children.

Pass it. Don't hesitate. Help these children.

That doesn't mean the debate over how best to deal with immigration and border security stops. The U.S. government should be able to walk and chew gum at the same time.

And the liberal vs. conservative viewpoints on immigration should be irrelevant to the specific issue of keeping children safe. And healthy. And alive.

Remember how these children are presently living: cold; dirty; sleep-deprived; traumatized.

And remember these names: Darlyn Cristabel Cordova-Valle, 10, of El Salvador; Felipe Gomez Alonzo, 8, of Guatemala; Wilmer Josue Ramirez Vasquez, 2, of Guatemala; Carlos Hernandez Vasquez, 16, of Guatemala; Jakelin Caal Maquin, 7, of Guatemala; and Juan de Leon Gutierrez, 16, of Guatemala.

Those six children all died in U.S. custody.

Don't pretend it matters that they're not American. Don't pretend it matters that it's not your fault they wound up on our soil.

Don't call them migrant children.

They're children. Period.

And this is America.

We must do better.



# Single-stepper world

It's not discrimination  
and it's not some gender game  
The reason they're not listening  
goes by a different name

The group mind will advance, you see  
one step each time at best  
So YOUR mind will outpace them  
just as if they're still at rest

You plan for all contingencies  
you think in future tense  
Anticipating outcomes  
based on what transpires hence

You're seeing things around the bend

and two, three steps ahead  
Your words float through their ears like air  
as if they're never said

It's not that they're not listening  
It's that they cannot hear  
Vibrations from a different plane  
though spoken, disappear

And when they finally do catch up  
to where you've long since been  
The credit goes to he who shouts  
"Look here at this new thing!"

It's really nothing personal  
you could be guy or girl  
You're just a three step thinker  
in a single stepper world!

By **WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Walt Goodridge is author of over 24 books, and conducts writer workshops to help others pursue their writer passions! Learn more at <http://www.saipanwriters.com>.



to do with what others thought about her, but actually how she thought; in other words, the way she thinks.

"It's possible that what's happening," I told her, "is that you're operating on a whole different level that they simply can't fathom, and that's not visible or audible to their senses. You're anticipating what needs to be done two or three steps ahead, while they're still grappling with step one."

It's like being in a game of chess in which you're three moves ahead of the other player. You're already seeing what the board will look like in the future, and your comments and suggestions are based on that future reality. Meanwhile, the people you're speaking with can only see what's right in front of them at that moment.

So, your words—words that don't fit into their present-moment reality—simply don't register as meaningful. In fact, they may not be hearing them at all! They may be like gibberish, background noise, sounds and ideas vibrating at a frequency and coming from a dimension that's way beyond the range of the other person's senses at that moment. The people in your meeting will never see what you see until they take a few steps forward. Then, when the "group mind" is just one step away, they'll be able to see what you've been able to visualize all along.

So, yes, it could, in fact, be a woman thing, but from what I know about you, it's probably simply that you're a three-step thinker in a single stepper world!

The solution? (a) Accept it as your lot in life. (b) Escape the single-stepper world, and find other three-step thinkers to associate with!

## Food for Thought: Korean Food

» Acrostic sonnet appetizing poems and proverbs

**LITERARY NOOK**  
By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

"Nam-ui deok-ee deo keo-bo-een-da" or "Your rice cake looks bigger than mine." It means the grass is always greener on the other side.

### Bibimbap Rap and Gimchi Gazetteer

B-Bibimbap is rice, egg, meat, vegetables in hot sauce  
H-Incheon means "kind river" large seaport city, pop. 2.5 million  
B-Busan means kettle mountain, the shape of a mountain nearby  
H-Incheon has had a Hyanggo, Confucian School, since 1392  
M-Making kimchi is an essential skill for men and women  
B-Bring on the "bugeo guk" (seafood soup) and bulgogi  
A-A name for the Korean peninsula is Hanbando  
P-Pyongyang North Korea is only 121 miles from Seoul

G-Gimchi, fermented vegetables, is spelled kimchi on Western menus  
H-interest in Buddhist temples remains strong with Koreans  
M-Military protection lies along the northern border  
C-Chili pepper and chili powder predominate in kimche  
H-Hot peppers are good for heart problems and spice up your life  
H-Investigate many different forms of gimchi/ kimchi immediately

"Geureem-ui deok" or "A picture of a rice cake." You see the picture and it makes you hungry. You are close to something but still not quite able to reach it.  
"Soo-bak geot-halt-gi" or "Licking the outside of a watermelon." Like just scratching the surface. This Korean proverb implies someone has made a decision or comment without knowing all the facts.

### Bulgogi Ballad and Japchae Journal

B-Bulgogi which means "fire meat" is Korean BBQ beef  
U-Usually it is made with beef but can be pork or chicken  
L-Lots of Koreans drink a 22-percent rice wine called soju  
G-Galbi or kalbi is the Korean word for "rib," usually beef  
O-On most Korean tables are different types of kimchi  
G-Guksu is the Korean word for noodles  
H-In bulgogi you will find pear or apple used as a sweet marinade

J-Japchae is a Korean noodle dish with marinated beef and veggies  
A-Apples are used as a tenderizer in bulgogi, garlic and ginger spice it up  
P-Pears from Korea are preferred for use in bulgogi and kalbi  
C-Cakes of glutinous rice, tteok, a dessert accompany Korean meals  
H-Have some Korean fruit desserts after your meal  
A-Americans don't like seeing dog meat served on the menu  
E-Eat the watermelon. Don't lick the outside, facts are inside

"Mee-on nom deok ha-na deo joon da" or "Give one more rice cake to a person you hate." In other words, keep your friends close and your enemies closer.

## Why won't US politicians talk about Chinese authoritarianism?

Given the recent fight over whether U.S. refugee detention centers are in fact "concentration camps," the Trump administration might want to borrow a page from the Chinese and simply call them "vocational skills education training centers." That way, no one would really care at all.

That's what the Chinese call their gulag archipelago of internment and re-education camps in Xinjiang province, where an estimated million ethnic Uighurs and other Turkic people are being held. The Uighurs are a traditionally Muslim minority, and Beijing says they pose a major threat because of Islamic terrorism. The reality is that the Chinese fear separatist movements, Islamic or otherwise, in a resource-rich region three times the size of France.

As a result, the Chinese are pursuing the largest attempt at cultural annihilation of the 21st century. Religion is heavily regulated throughout China, but it is brutally policed in Xinjiang. According to an analysis of satellite imagery by Agence France-Presse, "30 religious sites were completely demolished while six had their domes and corner spires removed." Ancient cemeteries are being erased, turned into parking lots. In the southern city of Kashgar, once a jewel of the Silk Road—and closer to Baghdad than to Beijing—morning calls to prayer have been silenced.

The evil deeds in Xinjiang are merely the most egregious examples of what the Economist has called "apartheid with Chinese characteristics" and what I think of as a high-tech Asian version of Jim Crow.

What is both intriguing and infuriating to me is that American politicians refuse to talk about any of this. After all, we are in the midst of a trade war with China. Whatever the merits of this economic confrontation may or may not be, you would think the nature of the Chinese regime itself would play a larger part in debate. The nature of the South African regime was the entire reason for the sanctions and boycotts pushed by progressives and Democrats in the 1980s. The nature of the Soviet Union was the rhetorical centerpiece of the economic warfare pushed by Republicans during the Cold War. Today, the repression of the mullahs and the export of terrorism aren't the main driver of sanctions against Iran—that would be the country's nuclear program—but they are a major part of the rhetoric accompanying such policies.

But among both Democrats and Republicans, Chinese authoritarianism often goes unmentioned, save perhaps as an afterthought. Countless conservatives, particularly of the new nationalist bent, want to take a hard line with China because they make widgets at a lower price than us or because they rip off

By **JONAH GOLDBERG**  
Tribune News Service

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Hollywood. The fact that the Chinese government has put a million Muslims in re-education camps and persecuted Christians, too, is rarely part of the conversation.

Rhetorically, President Trump has been far harsher on Canada and Mexico than he has been on China. He refused to offer even pro-forma support for the protesters in Hong Kong beyond saying the protests were having a "big impact."

One needn't be blindly moralistic about all of this. China is big, powerful and dangerous. But so was the Soviet Union, and we still managed to tell the truth about it. China is also more integrated into the global economy than the USSR ever was, and that brings important considerations as well.






The ongoing confrontation with China highlights the moral blind spot of economic nationalism—on the right and the left. The new fad of nationalism on the right has brought many conservatives into agreement with the left on non-interventionism and realism. The Trump administration as well as Democratic supporters of a tough trade policy with China (such as Sen. Chuck Schumer) have made it clear that all we expect of Beijing is more cooperation on trade, intellectual property and currency policies. Fix that stuff, our messaging signals, and everything you do to your own people is your business.

President Trump's speech in Normandy earlier this month was rightly hailed as one of his best. It was particularly popular among the nationalists because World War II understandably looms large in the romance about American moral and military might. Trump hailed the veterans of D-Day who "threw open the gates of Nazi concentration camps to liberate Jews." Meanwhile, today's nationalists are happy to demonize a China that bootlegs Mickey Mouse but are silent about the very same China that rounds up internal enemies and puts them in concentration camps.

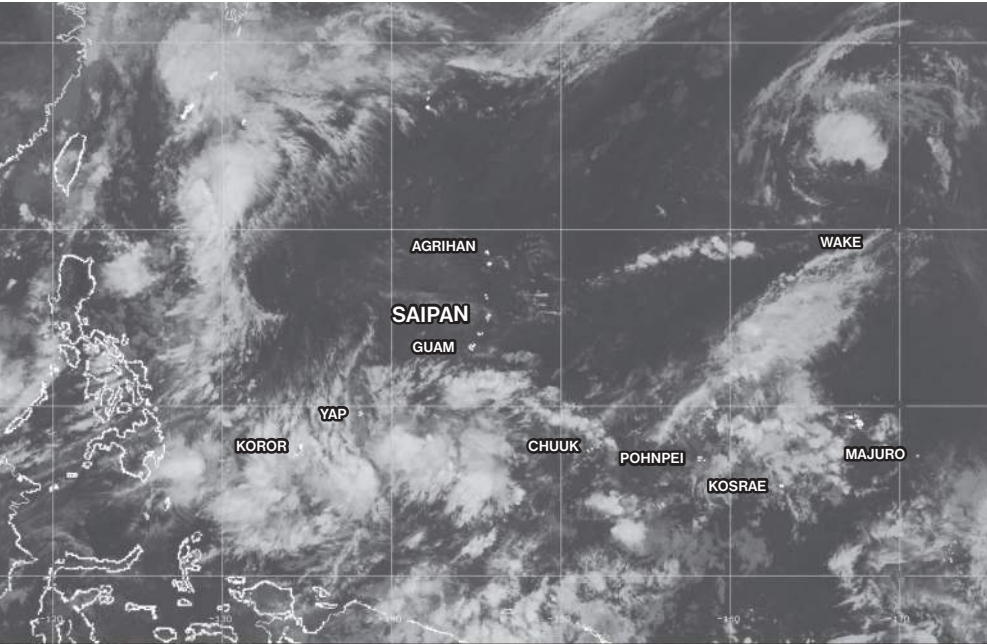


# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	
90°	79°	90°	79°	90°	79°	90°	79°	90°	79°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



## PICTURE TIME: 7:48 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Made a few updates to the forecast for the next couple of days, mainly to indicate drier and less cloudy conditions. The convection to the south has shown very little northward spread, but models still show a slight northward drift later in the week so have delayed the onset of mostly cloudy skies until Thursday night. A surface trough passing near Pohnpei and extending toward Wake Island will continue westward and is expected to bring isolated thunderstorms to the Marianas Thursday night and Friday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	57° / 46°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	95° / 72°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 84°	
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
London	Partly Cloudy	75° / 55°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	77° / 62°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°	
Melbourne	Sunny	63° / 55°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	87° / 80°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	90° / 73°	
Osaka	Showers	84° / 75°	
Paris	Sunny	95° / 66°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 70°	
Rome	Sunny	99° / 72°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	94° / 71°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	61° / 53°	
Seoul	Cloudy	79° / 66°	
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	88° / 66°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	94° / 75°	



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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:50 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.84	
9:52 AM	LOW TIDE	0.57	
3:40 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.33	
9:02 PM	LOW TIDE	0.79	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:13 AM	1:41 PM	-
Friday	1:51 AM	2:31 PM	-
Saturday	2:31 AM	3:24 PM	-
Sunday	3:16 AM	4:19 PM	-
Monday	4:04 AM	5:18 PM	-

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 2, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	09:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:10am	8:55am	1, 7	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	6, 7
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1	UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7	UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



# Business

Possible outcome of Trump-Xi meeting:  
A truce in trade war

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—American businesses are bracing for a painful escalation in President Donald Trump's trade war with China.

Yet they might just get a reprieve.

If history repeats itself—and most analysts are betting it will—Trump and President Xi Jinping will agree to some kind of cease-fire when they meet late this week at a Group of 20 international summit in Osaka, Japan.

Indeed, a senior administration official sought to downplay expectations Tuesday by suggesting that the primary goal for the Trump-Xi meeting is simply an agreement to restart negotiations. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the hard work of finalizing the complex details of any broad new accord would come later, when negotiating teams for the two sides meet.

Under the cease-fire scenario, the two sides' existing tariffs and counter-tariffs on many of each other's goods would remain in place. But no additional import taxes would take effect. This would buy time for U.S. and Chinese officials to restart talks that stalled last month after 11 rounds of negotiations.

The last time Trump and Xi met—in early December at a G-20 gathering in Buenos Aires, Argentina—they called a truce. That cease-fire injected some new momentum into the talks between the world's two biggest economies.

"Ideally, results at this summit could match the last summit in Argentina," said Tu Xinquan, director of the Institute for WTO Studies at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing. "That is, to prevent the trade war from escalating."

The stakes are even higher now. Trump has ordered U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to prepare import taxes on \$300 billion in Chinese goods—which would extend U.S. tariffs to everything China ships to the United States. The administration has already imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports. Beijing has retaliated by taxing \$110 billion in goods from the United States.

## LJ's Store opens third location

By **MARK RABAGO**  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATED EDITOR

LJ's Store has joined the supermarket big leagues after opening a new location last June 10 along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

The 7,000-square-foot grocery store located at the old XO Market beside Springs Plaza dwarfs the company's first two locations—the original LJ's Store in Chalan Kanoa and the more recent LJ's Store II in Garapan.

Operations manager Jenny Riza De Leon Guerrero Ubilas said the company decided to open a new store in Gualo Rai—dubbed simply as LJ's Store I—to serve the community better.

"We believe that there is a need for a convenience market that provides good service to customers in Gualo Rai and nearby villages," she said.

Ubilas, who also had a hand in designing the new store, said the advantage of the new location is obviously it's bigger and therefore can carry more items compared to the first two iterations of LJ's Store.

"This is a 7,000-square-foot convenience store. There are lots of imported household products that we could not display in our smaller stores. Also, we can provide a more leisurely shopping experience in this larger convenient store similar to general stores in smaller communities in the U.S. mainland," she said.

And the larger store in-



The newly opened LJ's Store I in Gualo Rai is open every day from 6:30am to 12pm.

MARK RABAGO



MARK RABAGO

With 7,000 square feet of grocery space, LJ's Store I is the company's largest supermarket to date.



MARK RABAGO

Bigger space means more refrigerators for freezers for frozen meat and seafood.

deed delivers on that promise with wider aisles, more refrigerators for frozen meat and seafood, enclosed chillers for fruits and vegetables, and shelves upon shelves of other items.

The only thing missing from the newest LJ's Store is a loyalty card program first popularized by giant retailers in the mainland that some groceries on island have also come to introduce.

"Currently, we are focused in providing good service and quality. We consider the possibility of loyalty programs after we have established good service," said Ubilas.

She also insists that the owners of LJ's Store are not all worried by the recent economic downturn and upcoming government austerity measures that potentially can cut sales of all three of its stores.

"Austerity measures and economic slowdown is only a temporary matter. People need good service and good products every day," she said, adding that LJ's Store wouldn't be opening a third location if its owners are not confident the CNMI would recover from the post-Super Typhoon Yutu economic downturn.

The company's owners should now as Lin Mei, one of the owners, has been on Saipan for more than 25 years having opened her first grocery on the island in 1993.

The newly opened LJ's Store I in Gualo Rai is open every day from 6:30am to 12pm.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### US government investigating poultry price-fixing claims

**CHICAGO (AP)**—The U.S. government is investigating price-fixing charges against the country's biggest poultry companies. The Department of Justice tipped its hand last week when it requested a temporary halt to discovery proceedings in a 2016 class-action lawsuit filed by food service distributor Maplevale Farms. Falconer, New York-based Maplevale Farms accuses Tyson Foods Inc., Perdue Farms Inc., Pilgrim's Pride and others of conspiring to fix poultry prices between 2008 and 2016. The suit claims the companies

shared information through a third-party data firm and restricted supply by destroying breeder hens on several occasions. The government asked the U.S. District Court in Chicago for a six-month delay to protect an ongoing grand jury investigation. A federal judge is scheduled to rule on the request Thursday. The case is one of nearly 40 filed by grocers, restaurants and others against the poultry companies. Kroger, Walmart, the Hooters chain and Darden Restaurants—which owns Olive Garden—are among those who have sued. Tyson shares fell 1% to \$80 in afternoon trading, while shares of Pilgrim's Pride Corp. were

down nearly 1% to \$25.30. The Justice Department has also been investigating price-fixing in the canned tuna fish industry. In October, StarKist announced it would plead guilty to fixing prices in the U.S. between 2011 and 2013.

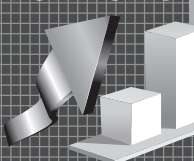
#### FedEx loses \$2 billion, warns of headwinds in coming year

**DALLAS (AP)**—FedEx Corp. posted weak quarterly results in its core express business and warned Tuesday that its profit in the year ahead will be hurt by slowing growth in the world economy and the decision to drop a contract with retail giant Amazon. The delivery

company reported a quarterly loss of nearly \$2 billion. However, excluding an accounting charge for retirement plans and other items that the company doesn't expect will repeat, the results were better than Wall Street expected. FedEx started a new fiscal year this month, and Chief Financial Officer Alan Graf said the company's performance, especially at FedEx Express, is being hurt by continued weakness in global trade and industrial production. The company announced this month that it would not renew an airfreight-delivery contract with Amazon that expires June 30. It did not disclose the value of that work, but said Amazon

accounted for less than 1.3% of its revenue in 2018. FedEx also finds itself in the middle of a trade dispute between the U.S. and China. On Monday, the company sued the Commerce Department, seeking to stop it from enforcing export rules that restrict shipments to, among others, Chinese telecommunications-equipment maker Huawei Technologies. Huawei was recently added to a list of companies barred from receiving U.S. technology without a special license from the Commerce Department. In the fiscal fourth quarter, which ended May 31, FedEx reported a loss of \$1.97 billion, compared with profit of \$1.13 billion a year earlier.

### STOCK PORTFOLIO



### LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
26,548.22	2,917.38	7,884.72
-179.32	-27.97	-120.98
[-0.67%]	[-0.95%]	[-1.51%]

### EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms			
Australian Dollar	1.4358	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8079
British Pound	0.7856	Indian Rupee	69.3121
Canadian Dollar	1.3177	Japanese Yen	107.0700
Chinese Yuan	6.8803	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1373
Euro	0.8781	New Zealand Dollar	1.5050
		Philippine Peso	51.3342
		Russian Ruble	62.7135
		Singapore Dollar	1.3534
		South Korean Won	1,154.24
		Swiss Franc	0.9737
		Taiwan Dollar	31.0424
		Thailand Baht	31.6738









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**\$11<sup>95</sup>**  
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**\$14<sup>95</sup>**  
WARDROBE COLLAPSABLE (28109-02)

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CLOROX ZEBRA HIPSTER BASKET 45L/1.3BUSHEL

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4SGM - BOUND 5'X7' AREA RUG

**\$11<sup>95</sup>**  
CLOROX LAUNDRY BASKET 70L/2BUSHEL

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## Nation

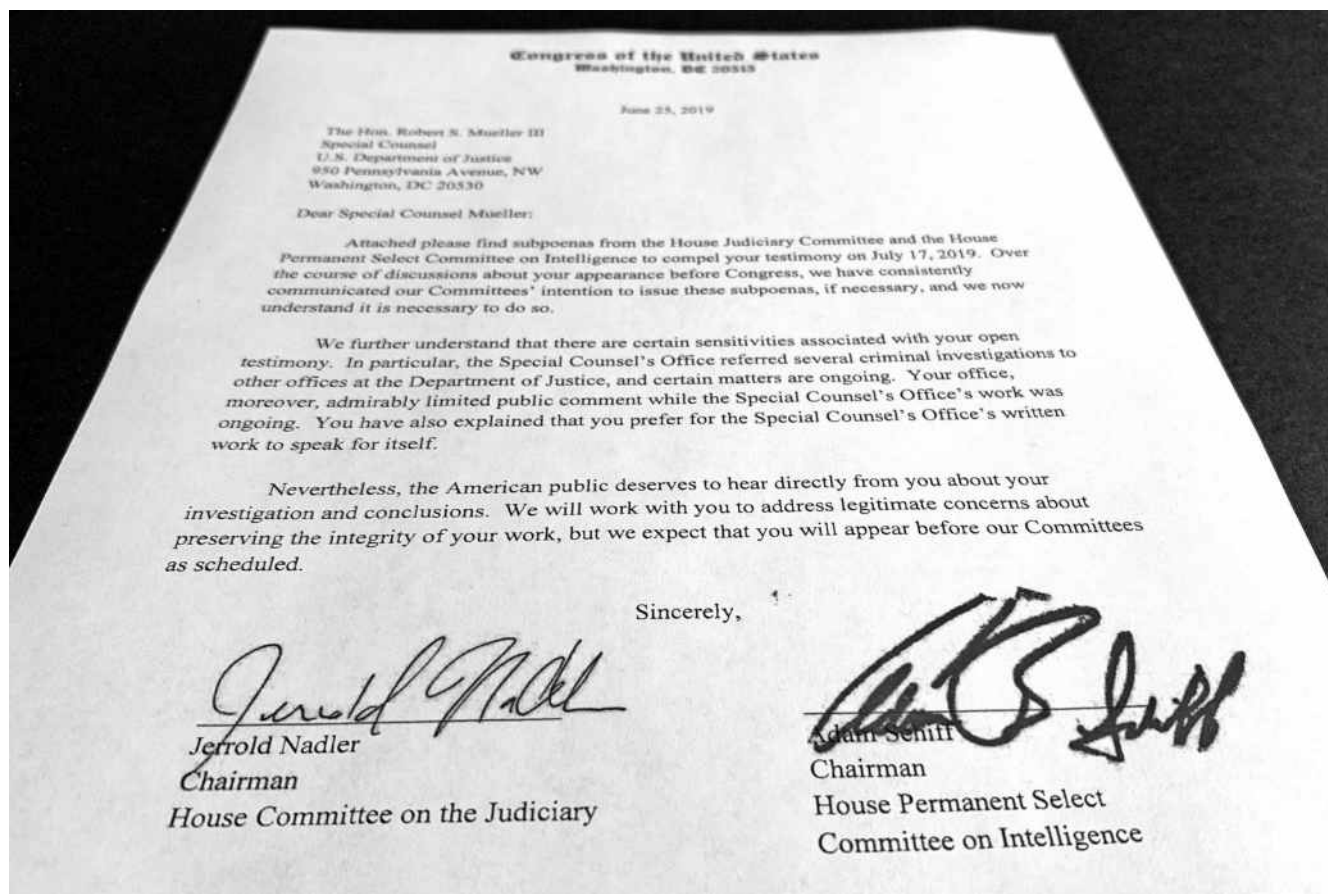
## Trump opponents turn the Mueller report into an art form

NEW YORK (AP)—Liz Zito is a multimedia artist so immersed in the Mueller Report that she wrote fan fiction to fill in the parts that were redacted by the Justice Department. When she worried that other Americans didn't know about the findings of special counsel Robert Mueller, she found her own way to make them accessible: A "performative reading" in downtown Manhattan.

"When you deliver a comedic performance, you want people to laugh at all the jokes, but a lot of positive feedback from that night came from people learning what was actually in the report and how manipulated we all were as world citizens," Zito says of her June 13 show at the gallery 601 Artspace.

First made public in April, the Mueller report detailing the results of the two-year investigation into whether the Trump campaign colluded with Russia is no longer just a book or a document to read online. It is a work of theater and other art forms, and a touchstone for Donald Trump opponents seeking to highlight his alleged misconduct, including possible attempts by the president to impede or halt the investigation.

Over the past month, there have been readings in New York, Washington and elsewhere. A San Diego-based publisher, IDW, is planning a graphic novel and at least one musical act, Electric Parrot,



The letter from House Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler and House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff to special counsel Robert Mueller that was sent with subpoenas to compel Mueller's testimony to the committees on July 17, is photographed in Washington, Tuesday, June 25, 2019.

has named a song after it.

On Monday night, an all-star reading from New York City's Riverside Church featured John Lithgow, Annette Bening and others. The event was presented and live-streamed by Law Works, which identifies itself as a bipartisan organization that advocates for the rule of law.

"If Americans aren't going

to read the report, we wanted to help them watch it," says Law Works executive director David Wade. "We've found that once Americans learn the facts, their concerns skyrocket."

The 448-page report has sold hundreds of thousands of copies in book form even though it can be downloaded for free from the Jus-

tice Department's web site (<https://www.justice.gov/storage/report.pdf>). But according to a CNN poll released in May, three-quar-

ters of the respondents said they had not read it.

From the start, the Mueller Report has been treated like a work of interpretative art. As

Mueller and his team were reviewing documents and interviewing Trump's associates, Trump and his supporters repeatedly called it a "WITCH HUNT." Opponents, meanwhile, speculated that the report's findings would prove so devastating that the president would be forced out of office.

Ultimately, Mueller found the Russians had interfered with the 2016 election, but decided there was no evidence that the Trump campaign had conspired with Russia. In reviewing whether Trump obstructed justice, however, Mueller wrote that while "this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him." He also noted that a sitting president cannot be charged.

Mueller's refusal to reach a conclusion on criminal obstruction opened the door for Attorney General William Barr to clear Trump, who in turn has cited the attorney general's finding as proof of his innocence. Last month, Mueller declared publicly that his Russia report did not exonerate Trump, and reiterated that charging the sitting president was not an option because of federal rules.

## California to require background checks for ammo purchases

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California has among the most stringent gun laws in the country and on Monday a far-reaching new initiative to curb violence will require background checks for every ammunition purchase.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and other proponents said it will save lives but opponents are suing in hopes of eventually undoing a law they said will mostly harm millions of law-abiding gun owners.

Voters approved the checks in 2016 and set an effective date of July 1. Ammunition dealers are seeing a surge in sales as customers stock up before the requirement takes effect.

"In the last two weeks I've been up about 300%" with people "bulking up because of these stupid new laws," said Chris Puehse, who owns Foothill Ammo east of Sacramento.

Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence spokeswoman

Amanda Wilcox appeared with Newsom at a news conference Tuesday and said the checks are "the kind of thing that could have prevented" last week's fatal shooting of rookie Sacramento police Officer Tara O'Sullivan.

Prosecutors charge that Adel Sambrano Ramos fatally shot the 26-year-old officer using one of two rifles assembled from parts to create assault weapons that are illegal in California. Wilcox and other supporters said ammunition background checks can help authorities discover so-called ghost guns that aren't registered with the state.

The state Department of Justice, which will administer the background check program, estimates there will be 13.2 million ammunition purchases each year. But 13 million will be by people who already cleared background checks when they bought guns in California, so they are already registered in the state's

gun owners' database.

They will pay a \$1 processing fee each time they pick up bullets or shotgun shells.

Store clerks will run buyers' identification through that database and a second database of those who bought guns legally but are no longer allowed to own them because of certain criminal convictions or mental health commitments. Those who pass get their ammo on the spot.

But the Democratic governor and Robyn Thomas, executive director of the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, said there are still some issues that must be addressed. People who bought rifles or shotguns before 2014 and anyone who bought a handgun before 1996 are likely not in the state's Armed and Prohibited Persons System.

"Sometimes in the drafting process little bits and pieces don't always fit perfectly together," Thomas said.

## ACROSS THE NATION

## Mother arrested after 12-year-old fatally shoots twin

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP)—Authorities in Southern California say a woman has been arrested after her 12-year-old son accidentally shot and killed his twin brother. San Bernardino police say they responded to a shooting around 7:30 p.m. Monday and found the boy, who died at a hospital. The department says an investigation revealed the siblings got hold of an unlocked handgun while they were home alone and loaded it. Police say the boys were playing with the gun when it accidentally went off. Their mother, 45-year-old Gabriela Keeton, was arrested Tuesday on suspicion of felony child endangerment. She was being held on \$100,000 bail. It wasn't immediately clear whether she had a lawyer. Authorities tell KABC-TV that the boys' father was in the hospital at the time but didn't provide details.

## Father of slain California officer praises department

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The father of a slain

California officer says he will never blame authorities for her death after it took 45 minutes to rescue her as a man with a high-powered rifle kept them at bay. Tara O'Sullivan was helping a woman remove her things from a north Sacramento home on Wednesday when she was shot. The shooter kept firing, and police officers had to wait 45 minutes for an armored vehicle to arrive before they could reach her. O'Sullivan later died at UC Davis Medical Center. It would take police officers nearly eight hours to capture the suspect, 45-year-old Adel Sambrano Ramos. Prosecutors have charged him with murder. Prosecutors allege Ramos had two AR-15 style rifles that are illegal in California. Sacramento Police Chief Daniel Hahn has said patrol car doors and protective vests would not have protected officers from bullets fired from the high-powered rifle. Former New York Police Department Inspector Stephen Nasta criticized the department's response, saying officers could have created a diversion or commandeered an armored car, bus or heavy construction equipment

to reach O'Sullivan sooner.

## Texas man who threatened Trump from prison gets 37 months

LAKE CHARLES, La. (AP)—A Texas man who threatened President Donald Trump from a Louisiana prison has been sentenced to just over three years in federal prison. Buddy Keith Myers, 24, of Simms, Texas, was sentenced Monday for threatening the president, prosecutors said Tuesday. He'd faced up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Myers pleaded guilty Aug. 28. A statement filed with his plea says he told investigators the threats were serious. He wrote letters in 2018, threatening Trump with death or injury. He drafted most on inmate request forms, giving some to officials at Allen Correctional Center and mailing at least one to the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, according to the statement. Myers finished a 5-year sentence for attempted carjacking while in federal custody for the threats, state corrections spokesman Ken Pastorick said.



# Asia

## N. Korea says it won't surrender to US-led sanctions

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—North Korea said Wednesday it won't surrender to U.S.-led sanctions and accused Washington of trying to "bring us to our knees."

The statement is yet another reminder that North Korea keeps mistrust of the U.S. though its leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump recently exchanged letters.

Their second summit in Hanoi in February ended without any agreement due to disputes over the extent of sanctions relief North Korea should win in return for a limited denuclearization step.

The North's Foreign Ministry said it "will not hesitate to pull a muscle-flexing trigger in order to defend ourselves" if anyone dares to trample over its sovereignty.

It accused the U.S. of maintaining hostility toward North Korea. It cited recent U.S. reports on alleged human trafficking and religious crackdowns in North Korea, and comments by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo that some 80-plus percent of the North Korean economy is sanctioned.

Pompeo "let loose a sophistry as if the sanctions are rendering the bilateral talks possible," said the statement, carried by the official Korean



North Koreans hold cards to make an image depicting a worker and a farmer during a mass game performance of "The Land of the People" at the May Day Stadium in Pyongyang, North Korea, Tuesday, June 25, 2019. AP

Central News Agency.

The statement said all these developments show the "wild dream of the U.S. to bring

us to our knees by means of sanctions and pressure has not changed at all but grows even more undisguised."

It said North Korea is "not a country that will surrender to the U.S. sanctions."

The letter exchanges between Kim and Trump sug-

gested the two leaders hoped to keep diplomacy alive, though there have been no publicly known official meetings between the two coun-

tries since the collapse of the Hanoi summit.

Trump is scheduled to arrive for a two-day visit to South Korea on Saturday.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### China hoping Trump-Xi meeting will help bridge differences

**BEIJING** (AP)—China hopes a meeting later this week between President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping will help build trust and resolve "outstanding issues," a foreign ministry spokesman said Tuesday. Geng Shuang gave no details at a daily briefing, but there are hopes the planned encounter at the G-20 summit in Japan will help lower the temperature in the trade war between the world's two largest economies. As part of preparations, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer spoke by phone Monday with the top Chinese negotiator, Vice Premier Liu He. "We certainly hope that the meeting will help the two states to promote mutual trust, resolve their differences, and resolve some of the outstanding issues we are facing now," Geng said. China remains "committed to working with the U.S. to develop China-U.S. relations based on coordination and cooperation," Geng said.

#### Protesters urge discussion of Hong Kong issues at G-20

**HONG KONG** (AP)—Protesters in Hong Kong opposed to contentious extradition legislation are calling on leaders of the U.S., the European Union and others to raise the issue with Chinese President Xi Jinping at this week's G-20 summit in Japan. Groups of protesters gathered outside the U.S. and EU consulates Wednesday morning to deliver petitions stating their requests. A spokesman says changes to

the Chinese territory's legislation could expose citizens of all nationalities to being extradited to China for unfair trials and possible torture. Hundreds of thousands of people have protested in recent weeks over the legislation and police violence against them. China has said it won't permit any discussion of Hong Kong affairs at the meeting in Osaka.

#### American accused of Vietnam overthrow plot gets 12-year term

**HANOI, Vietnam** (AP)—A Vietnamese court has sentenced an American to 12 years in jail for what was described as an attempt to overthrow the Communist nation's government. The state-owned Tuoi Tre newspaper reported Tuesday that 55-year-old Michael Nguyen was also convicted of inciting people to participate in protests with the intent to attack government offices in the capital, Hanoi, and in southern Ho Chi Minh City. Two Vietnamese men, Huynh Duc Thanh Binh, 23, and Tran Long Phi, 21, were sentenced to 10 and 8 years in prison respectively on the same charges after a half-day trial Monday in Ho Chi Minh City. They were arrested last July in Ho Chi Minh City after returning from Hue in central Vietnam, where they had traveled to recruit more anti-government protesters, according to the state media report. The protests Nguyen is accused of planning did not occur. Nguyen is from Orange County, California, and his wife was a guest of Rep. Katie Porter at President Donald Trump's State of the Union address earlier this year.

## Singapore probes drones at airport that disrupted 63 flights

**SINGAPORE** (AP)—Drones buzzing around Singapore's Changi Airport have caused 63 flights to be delayed or diverted in the past week, triggering an investigation and raising questions about the motives of the offenders.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore said Tuesday that 18 flights at the airport were delayed and seven were diverted the night before "due to bad weather and unauthorized drone activities."

It had earlier confirmed drones were seen flying near the airport last Tuesday and Wednesday. That caused the intermittent closure of a runway, delaying 37 flights and diverting one arriving plane to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

"A multiagency team including the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, Changi Airport Group, Singapore Armed Forces and the Singapore Police Force was activated for the search and locate operations," the regulator added.

It declined to comment Tuesday on the number of drones involved or their likely

operators, citing the ongoing investigation.

Shortly after news broke of the drone activity at the airport, Singapore's defense ministry posted a photograph of a soldier pointing a jammer gun at a "rouge drone" on Facebook.

While the photo wasn't taken at Changi, it hinted at the anti-drone technologies that may be used to track down offenders.

Drones are largely controlled by operators via a radio control link, on a frequency that's similar to Wi-Fi. A jammer gun temporarily disables this connection.

"In absence of a control link, most drones are designed to switch into 'fail-safe' mode, and may either attempt to return to its original location or immediately land," said Foong Shaohui, an associate professor who researches unmanned systems at the Singapore University of Technology and Design.

"It would be possible to identify the operators by analyzing the information stored in the drone" such as pictures and flight data, he added.

Some observers said the in-

cursions, which happened on two occasions and less than a week from each other, could signal the involvement of more sophisticated groups.

Mark Yong, chief executive of Garuda Robotics, took vast media coverage on the dangers of flying drones around the airport into account.

"Since this is a repeat event ... there is a good chance that this is not an accidental airspace intrusion or an ignorant drone operator," he said.

Unauthorized drone activity is dangerous around airports because of the risk of collision with planes that are taking off and landing.

Drones cannot be flown within 5 kilometers (3.1 miles) of airports or military bases in Singapore without a permit. The offense carries a penalty of up to a year in jail and a fine of 20,000 Singapore dollars.

Changi Airport is among the world's busiest. It handled a record 65.6 million passengers last year, but its executives have named rising fuel prices and trade tensions as challenges going forward.



## World

## Father-daughter border drowning highlights migrants' perils

**MEXICO CITY (AP)**—The man and his 23-month-old daughter lay face down in shallow water along the bank of the Rio Grande, his black shirt hiked up to his chest with the girl tucked inside. Her arm was draped around his neck suggesting she clung to him in her final moments.

The searing photograph of the sad discovery of their bodies on Monday, captured by journalist Julia Le Duc and published by Mexican newspaper La Jornada, highlights the perils faced by mostly Central American migrants fleeing violence and poverty and hoping for asylum in the United States.

According to Le Duc's reporting for La Jornada, Óscar Alberto Martínez Ramírez, frustrated because the family from El Salvador was unable to present themselves to U.S. authorities and request asylum, swam across the river on Sunday with his daughter, Valeria.

He set her on the U.S. bank of the river and started back for his wife, Tania Vanessa Ávalos, but seeing him move away the girl threw herself into the waters. Martínez returned and was able to grab Valeria, but the current swept them both away.

The account was based on remarks by Ávalos to police at the scene—"amid tears" and "screams"—Le Duc told The Associated Press.

Details of the incident were confirmed Tuesday by a Tamaulipas government official who wasn't authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, and by Martínez's mother back in El Salvador, Rosa Ramírez, who spoke with her daughter-in-law by



The bodies of Salvadoran migrant Oscar Alberto Martínez Ramírez and his nearly 2-year-old daughter Valeria lie on the bank of the Rio Grande in Matamoros, Mexico, Monday, June 24, 2019, after they drowned trying to cross the river to Brownsville, Texas. AP

phone afterward.

"When the girl jumped in is when he tried to reach her, but when he tried to grab the girl, he went in further ... and he couldn't get out," Ramírez told AP. "He put her in his shirt, and I imagine he told himself, 'I've come this far' and decided to go with her."

From the scorching Sonoran Desert to the fast-moving Rio Grande, the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border has long been an at times deadly crossing between ports of entry. A total of 283 migrant deaths were recorded last year; the toll so far this year has not been released.

In recent weeks alone, two babies, a toddler and a woman were found dead on Sunday,

overcome by the sweltering heat; elsewhere three children and an adult from Honduras died in April after their raft capsized on the Rio Grande; and a 6-year-old from India was found dead earlier this month in Arizona, where temperatures routinely soar well above 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

The search for Martínez and his daughter was suspended Sunday due to darkness, and their bodies were discovered the next morning near Matamoros, Mexico, across from Brownsville, Texas, several hundred yards (meters) from where they had tried to cross and just a half-mile (1 kilometer) from an international bridge.

Tamaulipas immigration and civil defense officials have toured shelters beginning weeks ago to warn against attempting to cross the river, said to be swollen with water released from dams for irrigation. On the surface, the Rio Grande appears placid, but strong currents run beneath.

Ramírez said her son and his family left El Salvador on April 3 and spent about two months at a shelter in Tapachula, near Mexico's border with Guatemala.

"I begged them not to go, but he wanted to scrape together money to build a home," Ramírez said. "They hoped to be there a few years and save up for the house."

El Salvador's foreign ministry said it was working to assist the family including Ávalos, who was at a border migrant shelter following the drownings. The bodies were expected to be flown to El Salvador on Thursday.

The photo recalls the 2015 image of a 3-year-old Syrian boy who drowned in the Mediterranean near Turkey, though it remains to be seen whether it may have the same impact in focusing international attention on migration to the U.S.

"Very regrettable that this would happen," Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said Tuesday in response to a question about the photograph. "We have al-

ways denounced that as there is more rejection in the United States, there are people who lose their lives in the desert or crossing" the river.

There was no immediate comment from the White House.

U.S. "metering" policy has dramatically reduced the number of migrants who are allowed to request asylum, down from dozens per day previously to sometimes just a handful at some ports of entry.

The Tamaulipas government official said the family arrived in Matamoros early Sunday and went to the U.S. Consulate to try to get a date to request asylum. The mother is 21 years old and the father was 25, he added.

But waits are long there as elsewhere along the border—last week a shelter director said only about 40 to 45 asylum interviews were being conducted in Matamoros each week, while somewhere in the neighborhood of 800-1,700 names were on a waiting list.

It's not clear what happened to the family at the U.S. Consulate, but later in the day they made the decision to cross. The Tamaulipas official said the father and daughter set off from a small park that abuts the river. Civil defense officials arrived at the scene at 7 p.m. Sunday and later took the wife to the shelter.

"I was drawn to the girl's arm on her father," Le Duc said as she described arriving at the scene. "It was something that moved me in the extreme because it reflects that until her last breath, she was joined to him not only by the shirt but also in that embrace in which they passed together into death."

## UN report: Women too often suffer violence in families

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)**—The U.N. women's agency says in a new report that families around the world can be loving and supporting but too often are the place for discrimination and violence against women—and home is one of the most dangerous places for a woman.

U.N. Women's Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka told a news conference Tuesday launching the report that's because of "the shocking pervasiveness of intimate partner violence." In 2017, for example, every single day 137 women were killed by a family member, she said.

While the report recognizes the vital importance of families to cultures and economies, it also says that in every region

there are concerted efforts to deny women autonomy and the right to make their own decisions in the name of protecting "family values."

"I am here today to say that this is not acceptable and cannot be allowed to stand," Mlambo-Ngcuka said. "Women around the world, and their allies, will not allow a roll-back of everything that we have achieved."

Despite great progress in legally eliminating discrimination against women, she said, "it's no accident" that the slowest progress has been in family laws that govern a woman's right to choose who and when to marry and her right to divorce and inherit money and property.

The 287-page report entitled "Families in a Changing

World" provides data on the variety of family forms, based on U.N. population division data from 86 countries around the world of all incomes.

According to the data, 38% of households globally are couples living with children, 27% are extended families including other relatives and 8% are one-parent families, the vast majority led by women often juggling paid work, raising children and unpaid domestic work. Households comprising couples without children accounted for about 13%, and one-person households for 12.5%.

The report said same-sex families are increasingly visible in all regions, adding that as of last month, 42 countries around the world have granted same-

sex couples the right to marry or form a civil union. At the same time, however, it said some 68 countries criminalize consensual sexual relations between partners of the same sex, and in 11 of those countries such relations are punishable by death.

Mlambo-Ngcuka said the report shows authoritatively for the first time that families are diverse.

It also counters the push-back against women's independence "by showing that families, in all their diversity, can be critical drivers of gender equality" provided governments adopt policies with women's rights at their core.

Shahra Razavi, U.N. Women's chief of research and data, noted other huge changes impacting women.

## Turkey's leader vows to heed 'messages' of Istanbul election

**ANKARA, Turkey (AP)**—In his first public appearance since a crushing defeat in a rerun election for mayor of Istanbul, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday vowed to draw lessons and make adjustments in line with "the messages given by the people."

Addressing legislators from his ruling party in Parliament, Erdogan again congratulated opposition candidate Ekrem Imamoglu who garnered 54.21% of the vote in Istanbul on Sunday to become Istanbul's mayor. Erdogan had previously congratulated Imamoglu in a tweet.

Sunday's results came as a rare electoral defeat for Erdogan and broke the Is-

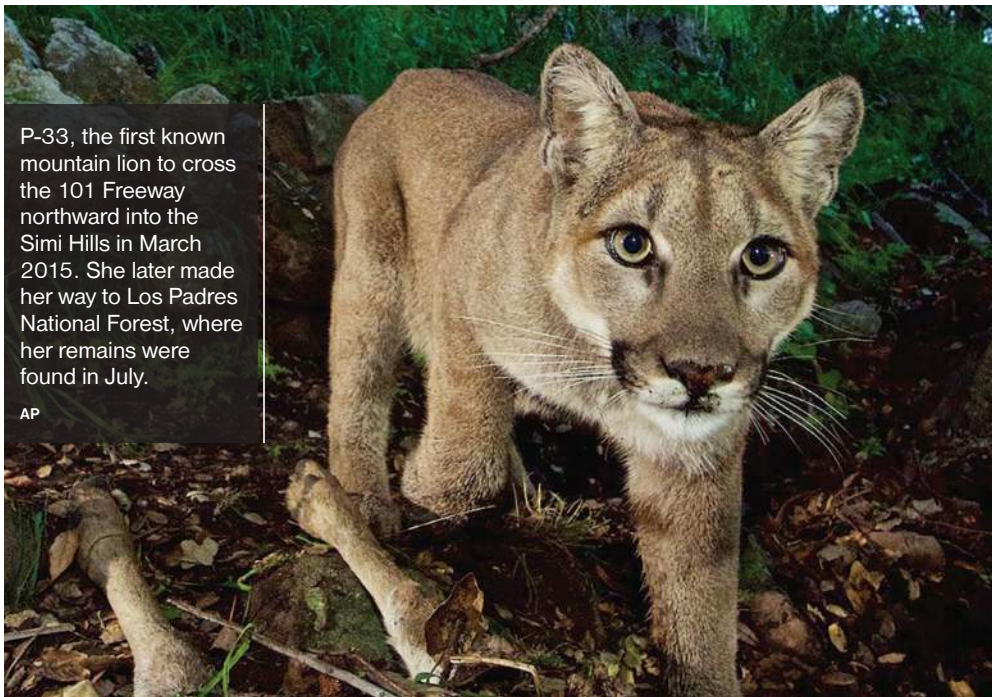
lamic-leaning ruling party's decades-old grip on Turkey's most important city. It was also a personal blow to Erdogan whose rise in Turkish politics had started with his own election as Istanbul mayor 25 years ago.

"In line with our political understanding, we cannot be angry or hold a grudge or blame the people," Erdogan told his party's legislators. "We don't have the luxury of turning a deaf ear and ignoring the messages given by the people."

He said his ruling party, which is scheduled to meet later Tuesday, would determine its "failings, disunity and errors" and look for ways to fix them.



# Environment



## California's mighty predator — the mountain lion — faces 'extinction vortex'

By LOUIS SAHAGUN  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

As the mountain lions of Southern California approach what some experts call an “extinction vortex,” environmentalists are demanding that state officials grant the big cats protective status—a move that could potentially ban development on thousands of acres of prime real estate.

Mountain lions as a species are not threatened in California, but a petition submitted Tuesday to the state Fish and Game Commission argues that six isolated and genetically distinct cougar clans from Santa Cruz to the U.S.-Mexico border comprise a subpopulation that is threatened by extinction.

The petition, which is co-sponsored by the Center for Biological Diversity and the nonprofit Mountain Lion Foundation, argues that Central and Southern California mountain lions comprise an “evolutionarily significant unit” that should be declared threatened under the state Endangered Species Act.

Recent scientific studies suggest there's an almost 1 in 4 chance that Southern California mountain lions could become extinct in the Santa Monica and Santa Ana mountains within 50 years.

“This petition will be controversial,” said Justin Dellinger, senior environmental scientist with the Wildlife Investigations Laboratory at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

“It will raise a lot of eyebrows amongst developers and others who will point out that, overall, mountain lions are doing OK,”

he said. “But the weight of the scientific evidence suggests that in certain places they are in serious trouble. So, listing those lions as threatened is not an outlandish notion.”

Tiffany Yap, a biologist at the Center for Biological Diversity and lead author of the petition, said time is running out for the lions.

“We’ve reached a critical point for mountain lions in Southern California,” Yap said. “Individual lions face horrible deaths from car collisions or rat poison, while their populations become increasingly isolated and inbred in ever-shrinking islands of habitat hemmed by freeways and sprawl.”

The effect of such a designation would be far reaching.

If the state Fish and Game Commission agrees, the California Department of Transportation would not be allowed to build or expand highways in core mountain lion habitat without implementing adequate measures to ensure habitat linkages and safe passage under or over them.

In addition, large-scale residential and commercial development could be prohibited or limited in mountain lion habitats within a region covering roughly a third of the state. Mountain lions are not threatened elsewhere in California, the petitioners say, but they are legally classified as a “specially protected species” by the state Department of Fish and Wildlife.

A preliminary decision by the commission is expected by the end of the year.

Developers and their attorneys dismiss the petition's proposals as absurd.

“Property owners and de-

velopers will face higher costs because of the reduction of available developable land,” said Jonathan Wood, an attorney at the Pacific Legal Foundation. The foundation has represented such groups as the California Building Industry Assn. and the Property Owners Assn. of Riverside County in land-use disputes involving the gnatcatcher, which the state has declared as threatened.

“It is not clear what the ultimate benefits will be for the species — which is thriving statewide,” Wood said. “Focusing attention on protecting the mountain lions of Southern California may be at the expense of other species that need help even more.”

The evolutionarily significant unit concept is not new. In 2005, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the California's Central Coast population of coho salmon as federally endangered. Earlier this year, the first ESU mammal was listed as a state threatened species: the Southern Sierra Nevada evolutionarily significant unit of the Pacific fisher.

In the meantime, Southern California is watching its mountain lions decline steadily in the Santa Ana, San Gabriel, San Bernardino, Santa Monica, Santa Cruz and Tehachapi mountains.

Habitat fragmentation by urban development and highways, extremely low levels of genetic diversity, disease, territorial battles, rodenticide poisoning, vehicle collisions and human-caused wildfires are serious problems shared by lions in each of those ranges.

The plight of the mobile and efficient predators will only worsen with continued development, widening of ex-

isting highways and construction of new ones.

The “greatest concern for the long-term health of mountain lion populations in the national forests of Southern California is loss of landscape connectivity between mountain ranges and large blocks of open space on private land,” according to an environmental review of land management plans conducted by the U.S. Forest Service.

The petition points out that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in April approved a proposal to develop 1,330 acres near the community of Castaic, despite concerns by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy that it would degrade a wildlife linkage between the Angeles National Forest and Los Padres National Forest.

Similarly, the board recently approved the controversial proposed 12,000-acre Centennial development on the unincorporated northern fringe of the county, overlooking objections that it would sever a habitat linkage between State Route 14 and Interstate 5.

There is no reliable estimate of mountain lion abundance in California today. But state wildlife authorities are currently conducting surveys to determine the statewide popu-

lation, which is believed to have fallen below 6,000.

In historic terms, scientists say mountain lions once had the most extensive range of any New World terrestrial mammal, roaming dense forests, deserts, savannahs and swamplands.

Their decline was decades in the making. Indiscriminate killing of mountain lions, encouraged by bounties, was once the rule. California voters banned mountain lion hunting in 1990.

Its range has been reduced to 15 mostly western states, and a small remnant population in Florida, where continued hunting and development have pushed the species to shrinking patches of rural mountainous areas.

Years of political and social struggle over such wildlife as northern spotted owls, California gnatcatchers, desert tortoises and mountain yellow-legged frogs has left the state keenly aware of what happens when old ways of resource management come into conflict with modern preservation laws.

Even some optimists say the petition's proposals will probably send all sides rushing to state courts and the Legislature.

“Our goal is to increase survival rates and stabilize genetic diversity among mountain lion

populations,” Lynn Cullens, executive director of the nonprofit Mountain Lion Foundation, said. “That can only happen when they are not constantly getting hammered.”

In the Santa Monicas, the 101 Freeway exists as a near impenetrable barrier to gene flow for a group of 10 mountain lions. In the Santa Anas, the 15 Freeway limits the movement of a family of 20 cougars.


Traffic is also taking its toll. Since National Park Service biologists began researching pumas in the Santa Monica Mountains in 2002, motorists have struck and killed 17 of the large predators in the study area, federal officials said.

Statewide, an estimated 100 “nuisance” mountain lions are eliminated annually with special depredation permits, officials said.

“When it comes to protecting mountain lions, there are strong arguments on all sides,” Dellinger said. “And it may be that even if the petition is not approved, the discussions it triggers will shed light on the issue and enable state wildlife officials to work more collaboratively with developers and Caltrans.

“In any case,” Dellinger said, “the debate that begins today with the filing of this petition will tell the tale.”

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE  
**FIRST ANNIVERSARY**  
OF HIS PASSAGE INTO ETERNAL LIFE



**WE, THE FAMILY OF THE LATE**  
*+ Jaime Aguon Sasamoto*

humbly invite family and friends to join us in praying for the repose of his soul. Nightly masses are being offered at San Vicente Church beginning Friday, June 28, 2019 at 6PM. Masses on Saturday, June 29 and Sunday, June 30 will be at 5:30PM.

On the final day, July 6, 2019, mass will be offered at San Vicente Church at 5:30PM.

*Your Presence and Prayers are greatly appreciated.*  
*Un Dangkulo' na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwááy & Thank You!*

*Mrs. Maria D.L.G. Sasamoto & Family*



# Life & Style

## Tributes to Michael Jackson flow on 10th death anniversary

**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**Hundreds of Michael Jackson fans gathered at his grave for a daylong celebration of his life and music Tuesday, with some traveling thousands of miles to join in the singalongs, selfies and moment of silence that marked the 10th anniversary of the death of the King of Pop.

“If you have a depressing day, and you listen to Michael Jackson, it just seems to make everything better,” said Kurt Williams, 21, who was dressed as Jackson and flew in from South Carolina for the occasion. “He was a master singer, a master dancer and a master humanitarian.”

It was largely a lively celebration outside the mausoleum that is Jackson’s final resting place at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California, where his music played loudly amid a sea of floral arrangements and poster-sized pictures of the pop superstar who died at age 50 on June 25, 2009.

A solemn moment came



as more than 200 fans joined hands in a giant circle at 2:26 p.m., the time Jackson died. After a moment of silence, they pointed at the sky and yelled “Michael!” in unison.

“There are people dying, if you care enough for the living, make it a better place, for you and me,” the crowd sang

together in an emotional group rendition of Jackson’s anthem “Heal the World.”

Jackson’s estate also paid tribute to his life and artistry on the anniversary.

“Ten years ago today, the

world lost a gifted artist and extraordinary humanitarian,” the estate said in a statement to The Associated Press. “A decade later, Michael Jackson is still with us, his influence embedded in dance, fashion, art

**AP**

Michael Jackson impersonator Rem Garza of Long Beach, Calif., poses next to a shrine to the late pop star outside his final resting place in Holly Terrace at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Tuesday, June 25, 2019, in Glendale, Calif.

and music of the moment. He is more important than ever.”

Jackson’s estate has doggedly worked to protect and enhance Jackson’s legacy, a task made more challenging this year when two men accused Jackson of molesting them as boys in the HBO documentary “Leaving Neverland,” sparking new scrutiny of years-old claims that Jackson preyed on children.

Jackson was acquitted of abuse allegations in 2005 and always vehemently denied such allegations, and the estate and his family angrily refuted the men’s claims when the

documentary was released in March, noting the men had at one time been among Jackson’s biggest defenders and one testified on his behalf at his criminal trial.

For many of those gathered at the cemetery it was a demonstration of solidarity in the wake of the documentary.

“Now more than ever, we’ve got to show that we know that Michael Jackson is innocent,” Williams said, as Jackson’s song “Smooth Criminal” blasted in the background. “There is no muting going on. There is just a life of celebration. It’s cool to be around people who feel the same way.”

Some parents brought their children to Forest Lawn.

Dominic Lendo, 6, drew the attention of much of the crowd as he showed off Jackson dance moves while wearing the singer’s Billie Jean-era garb.

## Cosby files appeal over testimony from other women accusers

Comedian Bill Cosby has filed a lengthy appeal of the sex assault conviction that landed him in prison, complaining the testimony of five other accusers was “strikingly dissimilar” to the pending felony charges and should not have been aired in court.



Cosby

The appeal Tuesday challenges Judge Steven O’Neill’s view that the women’s testimony showed “chilling similarities” and pointed to a “signature” crime.

The 81-year-old Cosby has been serving a three- to 10-year prison term since September at a state prison near Philadelphia. His insurance company this year recently settled lawsuits filed by at least eight other women who had accused Cosby of sexual misconduct and, in most cases, defamation.

The appeal, filed in Pennsylvania Superior Court, attacks Cosby’s conviction on a number of grounds that have been central to the case, and argued repeatedly, since his December 2015 arrest. The defense has long argued that any testimony from other accusers would unfairly stack the deck against Cosby, given that he was never charged in those cases. Cosby’s lawyers have also complained that many of the accounts are decades old,

and nearly impossible to defend.

And they say the five women who testified to bolster the prosecution case at Cosby’s retrial last year alleged different types of sexual contact than Andrea Constand did.

“This evidence was used to strip Cosby of his presumption of innocence and to try to establish that Cosby had the propensity to sexually assault women. This evidence never should have been admitted at trial,” lawyers Kristen L. Weisenberger, Brian Perry and Sarah Kelly-Kilgore wrote.

They also said O’Neill should have stepped down over an alleged feud with a former prosecutor who had declined to charge Cosby when Constand first went to police in 2005.

And they said the jury should not have heard Cosby’s 2006 deposition testimony from Constand’s civil case, in which he talked of getting quaaludes in the 1970s to give women before sex. That testimony, unsealed after a decade, led a new district attorney to reopen Constand’s police complaint and ultimately charge Cosby.

O’Neill, in his memo this year, said the other women’s accounts showed a long pattern of criminal behavior.

## McConnell pledges vote on 9/11 bill after Stewart criticism

**WASHINGTON (AP)—**Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has agreed to call a Senate vote on a bill ensuring that a victims’ compensation fund for the Sept. 11 attacks never runs out of money.

McConnell made the commitment after meeting Tuesday with a group of first responders.

“We want to try to deal

with (the legislation) before the August recess,” the Kentucky Republican told ABC News, adding that he had a “good meeting” with the first responders and even received the shield of a retired New York City detective who now is suffering from cancer after working for weeks at the World Trade Center site.

The meeting came two

weeks after comedian Jon Stewart, a longtime advocate for 9/11 responders, offered withering criticism of Congress at a public hearing at the Capitol that was attended by uniformed firefighters and police officers but few lawmakers.

McConnell now has “a sense of urgency” about the bill and wants to see it ap-

proved before Congress goes on its August recess, said John Feal, a recovery worker at the World Trade Center site and a longtime activist.

Approving the bill in the House and Senate by August would be “way ahead of schedule” and a credit to McConnell and advocates such as comedian Jon Stewart, Feal said.

### LIST TOPPERS

#### TOP 10 MOVIES

U.S. charts for week ending June 23, 2019:

1. Captain Marvel
  2. Us (2019)
  3. Robin Hood (2018)
  4. Hotel Mumbai
  5. Wonder Park
  6. The Upside
  7. Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse
  8. Five Feet Apart
  9. Cinderella (1950)
  10. The Mustang
- #### US Charts - Independent:
1. Hotel Mumbai
  2. The Beach Bum
  3. Dragged Across Concrete
  4. Rust Creek
  5. Plus One
  6. Napoleon Dynamite
  7. The Hummingbird Project
  8. Bone Tomahawk
  9. Hampstead
  10. Drunk Parents

#### TOP 10 BOOKS

Apple Book charts for week ending June 23, 2019: (Rank, Book Title by Author Name, ISBN, Publisher)

Apple Books US Bestseller List - Paid Books

1. Summer of ‘69 by Elin

1. Hilderbrand - 9780316419994 - (Little, Brown and Company)
2. Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens - 9780735219113 - (Penguin Publishing Group)
3. City of Girls by Elizabeth Gilbert - 9780698408326 - (Penguin Publishing Group)
4. It's Not You It's Him by Sophie Rinald - 9781786819291 - (Bookouture)
5. The Wolf and the Sheep by Penelope Sky - 9781386243120 - (Penelope Sky)
6. Unsolved by David Ellis & James Patterson - 9780316419840 - (Little, Brown and Company)
7. There Goes My Heart (Maine Sullivans 2) by Bella Andre - 9781945253973 - (Oak Press, LLC)
8. Tom Clancy Enemy Contact by Mike Maden - 9780525541714 - (Penguin Publishing Group)
9. Till There Was You (Butler, Vermont Series, Book 4) by Marie Force - 9781950654321 - (HTJB, Inc.)

10. Running Blind by Lee Child - 9781440634789 - (Penguin Publishing Group)

#### TOP APPS

App Store Official Charts for the week ending June 23, 2019:

- ##### TOP PAID IPHONE APPS
1. Minecraft, Mojang
  2. Heads Up!, Warner Bros.
  3. Plague Inc., Ndemic Creations
  4. iSchedule, HotSchedules
  5. Facetune, Lightricks Ltd.
  6. Procreate Pocket, Savage Interactive Pty Ltd.
  7. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB
  8. Bloons TD 6, Ninja Kiwi
  9. Dark Sky Weather, Jackadam
  10. True Skate, True Axis
- ##### TOP FREE IPHONE APPS
1. aquapark.io, Voodoo
  2. Harry Potter: Wizards Unite, Niantic, Inc.
  3. Pottery, Voodoo
  4. Train Taxi, SayGames LLC
  5. Fun Race 3D, Good Job Games
  6. YouTube: Watch, Listen, Stream, Google LLC
  7. Instagram, Instagram, Inc.
  8. Flip Dunk, Voodoo
  9. Snapchat, Snap, Inc.
  10. Google Maps - Transit &

- Food, Google LLC
- ##### TOP PAID IPAD APPS
1. Minecraft, Mojang
  2. Procreate, Savage Interactive Pty Ltd
  3. Notability, Ginger Labs
  4. GoodNotes 5, Time Base Technology Limited
  5. Geometry Dash, RobTop Games AB
  6. Five Nights at Freddy's, Scott Cawthon
  7. Amazing Frog?, FAYJU
  8. Plague Inc., Ndemic Creations
  9. Terraria, 505 Games (US), Inc.
  10. Toca Hair Salon 3, Toca Boca AB
- ##### TOP FREE IPAD APPS
1. aquapark.io, Voodoo
  2. Fun Race 3D, Good Job Games
  3. Pottery, Voodoo
  4. Magic Tiles 3: Piano Game, Amanotes Pte. Ltd.
  5. Netflix, Netflix, Inc.
  6. Bottle Flip 3D!, tastypill
  7. Train Taxi, SayGames LLC
  8. YouTube: Watch, Listen, Stream, Google LLC
  9. Traffic Run!, Geisha Tokyo Inc.
  10. Tiles Hop - EDM Rush, Amanotes Pte. Ltd.



# Bulgari exhibit in Rome features 'La Dolce Vita'-era jewels

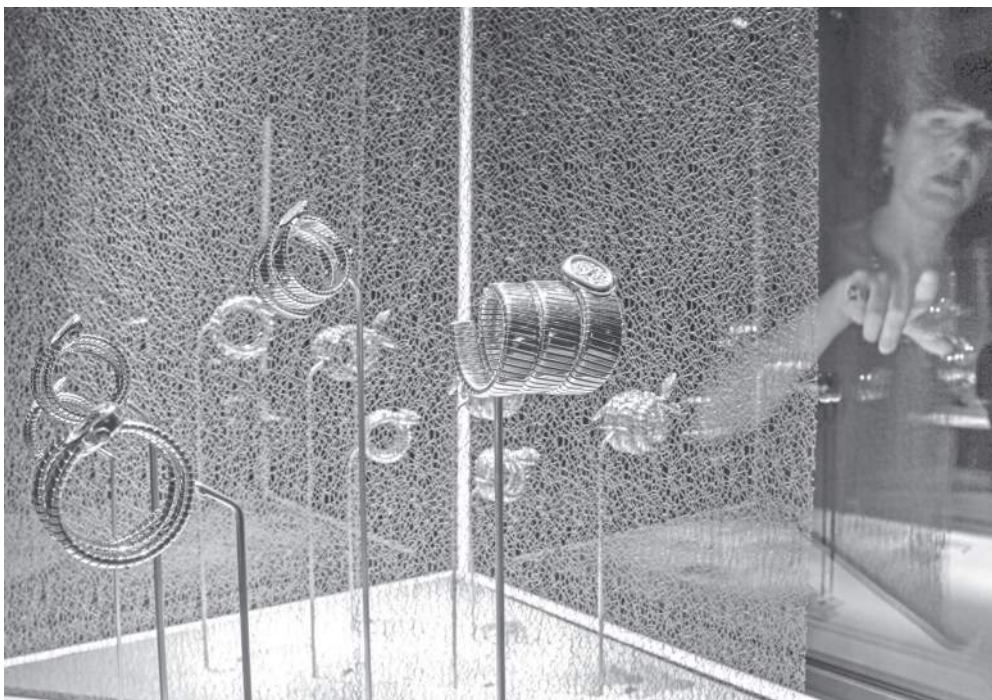
**ROME** (AP)—Glamorous jewelry and vintage fashion from the “La Dolce Vita” era are the star attractions of Bulgari’s new exhibition in Rome.

The exhibition “Bulgari, the story, the dream” includes the diamond-and-sapphire sautoir necklace that Hollywood star Richard Burton gave

Elizabeth Taylor during their stormy love affair.

The exhibition is hosted in two historical palazzos, Palazzo Venezia and Castel Sant’Angelo.

Palazzo Venezia tells the brand’s history, beginning with its founding by Greek silversmith Sotirio Bulgari. The



AP  
A woman looks at bracelets on display during a preview of the exhibition “Bulgari. The story, the dream” at St. Angel Castle in Rome, Tuesday, June 25, 2019.

glamour comes in at Castel Sant’Angelo, where the “Hollywood and the Tiber” section features jewels owned or worn by legendary actresses including Sophia Loren, Gina Lollobrigida and Audrey Hepburn.

The installations also feature vintage haute couture pieces from the collection of Cecilia Matteucci Lavarini, with items from Christian Dior, Yves Saint Laurent and Schiaparelli.

The show runs until Nov. 3.

## Justice Department: Omarosa didn't file financial disclosure

**WASHINGTON**

(AP)—The Justice Department filed a lawsuit Tuesday against former White House staffer and reality TV star Omarosa Manigault Newman, alleging she failed to file a legally required financial disclosure after she was fired from her job in the Trump administration.

The suit alleges Manigault Newman, who worked as the director of communications in the White House office of public liaison, violated the federal Ethics in Government Act. The law requires some federal employees to file public financial disclosure reports.

The Justice Department asserts Manigault Newman was required to file a final public financial disclosure report within 30 days of her December 2017 termination, but says she failed to do so. The lawsuit describes repeated emails from White House officials reminding her that she needed to file the disclosure.

As part of the lawsuit, the government is asking a federal judge to compel Manigault Newman to file the financial disclosure report and impose a penalty against her



**Newman**

of up to \$50,000.

In a statement to The Associated Press, Manigault Newman said she has been attempting to retrieve six boxes of personal items, including financial records she needs to complete the report.

“The White House has admitted that they have my things in multiple emails and phone calls and yet refuse to return these items,” she said. “This lawsuit as well as the arbitration is political retribution from the White House plain and simple.”

John M. Phillips, a lawyer for Manigault Newman, released a statement calling the lawsuit “premature, retaliatory and yet another attempt to silence a dissenting voice.”

Manigault Newman, who was a contestant on President Donald Trump’s “The Apprentice” reality show, faced backlash from Trump after saying he used racial slurs on the show’s set. She also released audio recordings of private White House conversations as part of a rollout tour last year for her book “Unhinged.” The president has said that Manigault Newman is a “lowlife” and that she was “wacky and deranged.”

## Cardi B pleads not guilty to new charges in strip club brawl

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Grammy-winning rapper Cardi B was arraigned Tuesday on new felony charges in connection with a fight last year at a New York City strip club.

“Not guilty, sir, honor,” said the rapper dressed in a dark blue and light pink pantsuit with her hair tinted blue as she pleaded in state court to two counts of attempted assault and various misde-

meanor charges, including harassment, criminal solicitation, conspiracy and reckless endangerment.

The rap star, whose chart-topping hits include “I Like It” and “Bodak Yellow,” has showcased her fashion style at each of her court appearances. She didn’t speak to reporters as she entered and left the courthouse, but waved at a small crowd of fans who shouted

her name and took video on their cellphones.

The 26-year-old Cardi B, whose real name is Belcalis Almanzar, and her entourage argued with a bartender at Angels Strip Club, police have said. They say a fight broke out in which chairs, bottles and hookah pipes were thrown, causing minor injuries to the woman and another employee.

Cardi B had originally

only been charged with misdemeanors. Prosecutors presented the case to a grand jury after she rejected a plea deal that would have given her a conditional discharge.

Two other defendants in the case who allegedly participated in the brawl also pleaded not guilty Tuesday to similar charges.

The judge set Sept. 9 as the next court date, but the rapper does not have to appear.

## Alcoholics Anonymous' 'Big Book' collection up for auction

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—A collection of 19 first-edition copies of the founding document of Alcoholics Anonymous, known to adherents as the “Big Book,” will be auctioned off in Los Angeles next month.

The auction house Profiles in History said Tuesday that the collection will be part of a single lot that includes a 1940 stock certificate used at the time to raise funds to continue printing the Big

Book.

The books are signed by the founding members of AA.

They were collected over a lifetime by Ken Roberts, who last year put up for auction the original working manuscript for the Big Book. It sold for \$2.4 million to Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay.

The first-edition collection is estimated to sell for up to \$500,000 when it hits the block July 11.



AP  
This undated photo provided by Profiles In History shows a collection of 19 first-edition copies of the founding document of Alcoholics Anonymous, known to adherents as the “Big Book,” that will be auctioned off in Los Angeles next month.

## Daughter betrayed by mother's struggles with reconnection

**DEAR ABBY:** I have an extensive history of childhood trauma. I was sexually abused by my stepfather for 15 years. When I turned him in, my family turned their backs on me. I was told it could have been handled within the family, and they blamed me for acting “sexy.” My stepfather spent 10 years in prison and died a few years later.

I suffer from chronic mental health issues including PTSD, anxiety and suicide ideation, which have landed me in the hospital 10 times in the last two years. My mother wants to have a relationship with me, but she refuses to apologize or acknowledge the abuse even happened.

In some ways, the betrayal by my mother has hurt me more than the abuse. I feel guilty for not trying to work on a relationship with her, but on the other hand, I don’t feel my heart can handle any more rejection from her. We live states apart. What should I do?

**SURVIVOR IN WISCONSIN**

**DEAR SURVIVOR:** If you haven’t talked about this with a licensed psychotherapist, please do it before making a decision about something this important. I’m not a therapist, but I think it would be healthier for you to keep your distance from someone who prefers living in denial rather than facing reality.

**At the very least, YOU are owed an apology for the way you were treated by "the family." You did nothing wrong. The person who should feel guilty is your mother. Blowing the whistle on the child molester she married was the right thing to do. ("Handle it within the family"?! ) I can only wonder how many other young family members your stepfather may have abused in addition to you.**

**DEAR ABBY:** My three sons are all engaged and plan on being married over the next three years. Their mother and I are separated and will be splitting the cost of the rehearsal dinner.

I told the first one to be engaged that while I will pay for the rehearsal DINNER, I will not pay for a bartender or alcoholic drinks. I have been in emergency services for more than 35 years and have seen firsthand the effects of alcohol too many times. I no longer drink socially because of it. Although I explained this to my sons as they grew up, they have chosen to drink socially as adults. It is their choice, and I accept it.

The fiancée of my second son to be married has sent us a price quote from a venue that includes costs for a bartender. (The total is more than twice that of the first son’s.) I plan to discuss this with him, but I’d like your opinion: Am I wrong to

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



make this stipulation, given the fact that this is “their” event?  
**TEETOTALER IN THE SOUTH**

**DEAR TEETOTALER:** You are not wrong. You made that stipulation to Son No. 1, and in fairness, you should do the same with Son No. 2. While it will be his and his fiancée’s event, and you are generously paying for the dinner, you are under no obligation to pay for their booze.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

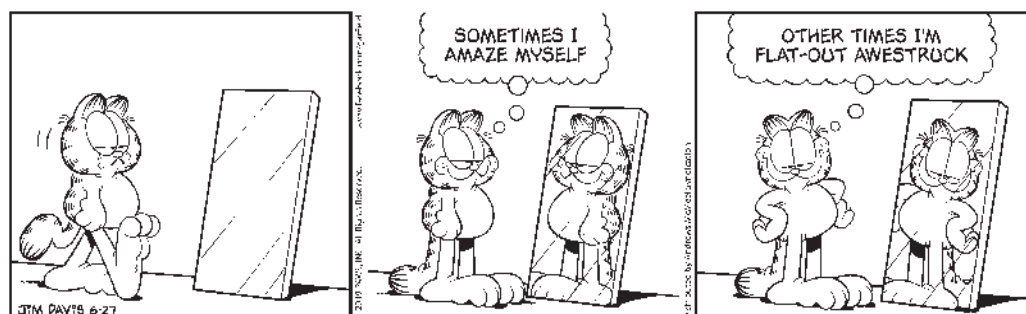
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



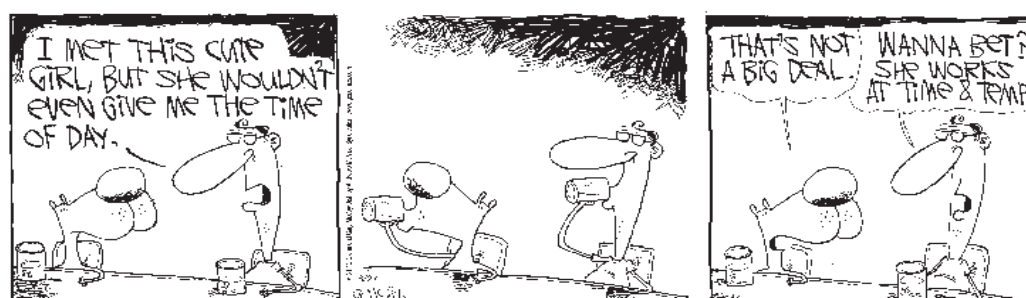
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Beer ingredient  
5 Adj. modifier  
8 Taverns  
12 "The Middle" actress  
14 Denny's rival  
15 Susan of "Dead Man Walking"  
16 Donated  
17 Business mag  
18 Rose and fell on the sea  
20 Chicago cagers  
23 Seethe  
24 God of war  
25 Adirondack lake  
28 Martini ingredient  
29 "Star Wars" baddie  
30 Pirate's chart  
32 Arabian nomad  
34 Minus  
35 Melodies

**DOWN**

36 Blitzes boss  
37 Two-piece suit  
40 Jazz style  
41 Greek vowels  
42 Revolutionary War battle  
47 Hamlet, e.g.  
48 Stumble on  
49 Winter coaster  
50 Thanks-giving veggie  
51 Section

**2 Bond rating**  
**3 USPS delivery**  
**4 Nature walks**  
**5 Outlet letters**  
**6 God, in**  
**7 Eighth U.S.**  
**8 London president**  
**9 Melville landmark**  
**10 Peregrinate**  
**11 Raced**  
**13 Hostels**  
**19 Sharif of "Funny Girl"**

**20 Purse**  
**21 "Topaz" author**  
**22 Sultry Horne**  
**23 Loses color**  
**25 Clerics' robing room**  
**26 "So be it"**  
**27 Group of actors**  
**29 Futile**  
**31 Unpaid TV ad**  
**33 Elevated PC**  
**34 Portable**  
**36 Daytime drama**  
**37 Hotel furniture**  
**38 Slanted type (Abbr.)**  
**39 Welles role**  
**40 Edge**  
**43 Coach Par-seghian**  
**44 Eggs**  
**45 Berlin's country (Abbr.)**  
**46 Museum display**

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

**Saturday's answer 5-27**

A	L	E	C	R	A	M	A	D	S	L
S	O	L	C	O	N	U	S	I	W	O
A	R	L	C	B	T	U	S	V	A	N
P	F	A	K	I	S	M	R	A	G	E
I	I	N	U	S	O					
C	H	E	E	R	S	U	T	O	P	I
V	I	N	L	A	A	K	H	O	N	
N	E	C	A	T	E	S	C	I	O	N
T	O	W	S	O	A	R	Y	F	T	I
A	P	E	A	N	T	E	E	R	O	S
R	E	B	L	Y	O	N	A	G	E	E
O	N	S	E	M	M	A	H	O	S	E

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Ed Westwick, 32; Drake Bell, 33; Tobey Maguire, 44; J.J. Abrams, 53.

**Happy Birthday:** Pay attention to what everyone else is doing. Being prepared will help you make better decisions when someone throws a curveball. If you let anger step in, it will be difficult to backtrack. Take your time, think matters through and give others a chance to reveal motives and concerns. The art of listening will be your secret weapon for maintaining control. Your numbers are 8, 14, 23, 29, 31, 42, 47.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Take nothing and no one for granted. If you want something done, do it yourself. Go easy when making changes. Think your plans through to the end before you begin. An old flame will come to mind or try to reconnect. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Change should start within. If you demand too much of others without giving back, you will end up getting little. Work in unison with those who are heading down a similar path. Go with the current, not against it. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** You need time to rejuvenate. Get some rest. Take time to digest what's going on around you, and gather facts that could influence how you move forward. Be secretive about your personal affairs. A moderate lifestyle will promote less stress. \*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Breathe deep and release. Take a moment to rethink what's transpired and how to move

forward. Do things right the first time, and you'll have nothing to worry about. Walk away from inconsistent or unreliable people. \*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Play for keeps. Refuse to let an unexpected change throw you off guard. Keep your emotions in check, and remain confident that if you do your best, you will come out on top. Love and romance are on the rise. \*\*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Think about what you want and how best to make it happen. Emotions will surface, giving rise to an incident that can push you in a different direction. Don't hesitate to see what's available. Letting go of the past will be liberating. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't worry about what others do or think. Change begins within, and recognizing what makes you happy will be an excellent place to set sail. Love who you are, and follow your heart. Romance is on the rise. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Experience all you can. Traveling, interacting with people from different backgrounds or just trying something new will motivate you to make a lifestyle change. Aim to lower your overhead, ease your stress and live life your way. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Listen carefully and fact-check. Not everyone will be looking out for your best interest. A personal assessment will help you recognize what and who you need in your life. Don't be fooled by someone who has ulterior motives. \*\*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Address an issue that you are dealing with at home. How you handle a relationship will make a difference in the outcome. If a problem exists, face facts and get help. Put negativity behind you so you can move forward lovingly. \*\*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Don't feel pressured to do too much for others. Reciprocate what's fair, and move on to something that will make you happy. Doing your part to keep meaningful relationships equal will help you avoid resentment. Do what's appropriate. \*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't stop until you are satisfied. Live up to your expectations as well as your promises. Walk away from temptation and those who try to take advantage of you. Suggest what you will do and what you want in return. \*\*\*

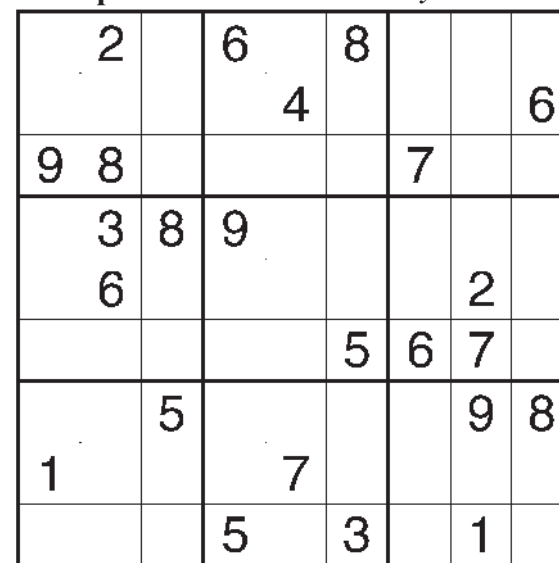
**Birthday Baby:** You are emotional, expressive and unwavering. You are assertive and over-protective.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit [EugeniaLast.com](http://EugeniaLast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



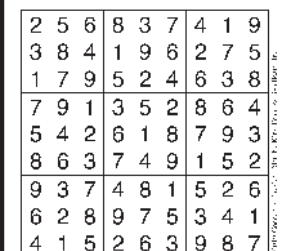
Difficulty Level ★★★

6/27

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

12/27

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TRIPLE AXELS Solution: 7 letters



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Arena, Asada, Axel, Championships, Cold, Competition, Costume, Crosses, Difficult, Figure, Flight, Force, Harding, Hurls, Jump, Landing, Legs, Melssner, Midori Ito, Nagasu, Nakano, Olympic, Performance, Physical, Programs, Push, Rink, Rotate, Routines, Skates, Skating, Skid, Spectators, Speed, Strength, Team, Three, Tilt, Train, Vern

**Yesterday's Answer: Pickling**  
The NEW Volume 56 can be purchased online at: [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com), or call 1-800-642-6480.

## STUMPED?

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DBA Lim's Office/Imoya Restaurant/  
Tour Agency

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Post Restaurant/building daily sales and vendor invoices on company's accounting system ad corresponding QuickBooks accounting ledger. Prepare timely payments for all vendors, prepare month end BGRT and Financial Statement, Year End Financial statements, bank reconciliations (monthly/yearly). Conducts internal audit of company financials, analyze business operations, trends, Costs, revenues and expenses to provide advice to management .Computes payroll of employees based on their time cards determining gross wages, taxes to be withheld and other deductions as mandated by law. Prepares permit and license application as required by Federal and CNMI government. Prepares deposit slip and make deposits to company bank account.

**Requirements:**

Must have Bachelor of Science in Accounting Degree or related field (maybe foreign equivalent). Three Years related work experience. Quick Books Accounting and Microsoft office application software proficiency required. Must be proficient in the preparation of all applicable CNMI and Federal taxes. Flexible, can work with minimal or no supervision and must be able to meet deadlines. Effective follow-up skills, demonstrate a highly professional attitude and personal presentation in all verbal and written communications. Knowledge in utilizing various office equipment and software. Willing to work flexible hours including holiday and weekends. Certificate from previous employer is required Valid Driver's license and Police Clearance required.

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**Requirements:**

Must have 12 months of experience working as hazmat tank truck driver (diesel); prior experience in petroleum diesel industry is preferred; must have knowledge with proper methods of loading and unloading of petroleum diesel to be transported. Must able to operate diesel tank truck vehicle; must have knowledge and trained on how to appropriately respond when there is emergency situation such as spills or leak during delivery; must have knowledge in emergency procedures and equipment; trained as hazmat tank truck driver; Graduate or High School or equivalent; valid training certificate in hazardous materials and transportation of dangerous goods is required; commercial driver's health certificate is required; must possess a current and valid CNMI driver's license and not be disqualified to operate a motor vehicle; police/court clearance is required.

**Salary:** \$8.00 - \$8.30 per hour

**ACCOUNTANT**

**Job Duties:**

Prepare, examine, and analyze accounting records, profit and loss statements, and other financial reports to assess accuracy, completeness, and conformance to reporting procedural standards; Analyze business operations, trends, costs, revenues, profit and loss statements, and obligations, to project future revenues and expenses; Provide reports to the management regarding the finances of the company; Establish tables of accounts, and assign entries to proper accounts; Develop, implement, modify, and document record keeping and accounting systems; Reconciles financial discrepancies by collecting and analyzing account information; Secures financial security by following internal controls; Assign schedule of payments to our main supplier and our lease obligations to the CNMI government by verifying documentation; Compute taxes owed and prepare tax returns, ensuring compliance with payment, reporting and other tax requirements. Complies with federal and local legal requirements by reviewing existing and new regulations, enforcing adherence to requirements, and advising management on needed actions. Coordinate with the insurance company for the renewal of the company's workers compensation, auto insurance, fire and general liability insurance and employee's medical insurance. Prepare and provide documentation to our external auditor for the compilation of Financial Statements; perform any other duties as assigned.

**Requirements:**

Must have earned a Bachelor's degree in accounting with at least 2 or more years working experience as accountant. Prior experience in petroleum business is preferred. Must have a good communication and multitasking skills, organizational, self-motivation, responsible, and able to manage deadlines. Proficient in MS Word and Excel, and Sage 50 accounting system.

**Salary:** \$12.08 - \$14.36 per hour

Send application or resume' to:  
**D&W ENTERPRISES INC**  
Industrial Drive, Lower Base I PO Box 500440, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel #s 1670-3227415/8733 | E-mail: wushin@pticom.com  
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# Rockets to pursue sign-and-trade for Butler



**HOUSTON**—With the Western Conference wide open thanks to major injuries to the Golden State Warriors, the Houston Rockets have plans for a big move this offseason. They just need to convince another team to let them do it first.

The Rockets are planning to recruit Philadelphia 76ers star Jimmy Butler in free agency, according to ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski. In order to land Butler, the team will need to acquire Butler through a sign-and-trade with the Philadelphia 76ers due to its lack of cap space.

The Rockets had already been reported to be interested in Butler, and now we're seeing how a deal could possibly take form.

To pull the move off, the Rockets will need to do two things. First, they need to convince Butler that Houston would be his best destination in free agency after an eventful year for the All-Star forward.

Second and more importantly, the Rockets will need to convince the Sixers that they have no shot at re-signing Butler after giving up Robert Covington and Dario Saric for him just months ago.

The Sixers reportedly plan to be aggressive in their attempts to re-sign Butler in free agency, and could offer him a five-year, \$190 million deal when free agency begins Sunday night. A four-year, \$146.5 million deal would also be possible.

If the Sixers find that Butler doesn't want to re-sign with them, then the team could possibly negotiate a sign-and-trade deal with the Rockets. Per Wojnarowski, the Rockets would need to include at least two of these three to make the deal's financials work: Clint Capela, Eric Gordon and P.J. Tucker.

Even if Butler walks away from the Sixers, the team would still have its hands full in free agency trying to re-sign Tobias Harris and JJ Redick. Wojnarowski also reports the Sixers could simply turn down a Butler sign-and-trade for payroll flexibility if the team is able to keep its other free agents.

This isn't the first time the Rockets have geared up to pursue Butler. The team was in the thick of discussions last season to trade for the disgruntled Minnesota Timberwolves star and reportedly offered literally ever first-round draft pick they could for him.

It's not hard to see why the Rockets would want Butler. Dropping him in the lineup would give the Rockets an elite perimeter defense duo with Chris Paul, and another



Philadelphia 76ers guard Jimmy Butler (23) tries for a jump shot against Toronto Raptors forward Pascal Siakam (43) during the second half of Game 5 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series, Tuesday, May 7, 2019, in Toronto.

top offensive option behind James Harden. Of course, adding a player who reportedly derailed his own team's practices last season to a locker room already seeing a fair amount of conflict could be risky.

Still, with the Warriors in danger next season of being without Klay Thompson and Kevin Durant, this might be the best chance the Rockets get to break through to the NBA Finals, never mind the luxury tax bill.

## Carmelo a possibility for Lakers

The Los Angeles Lakers have LeBron James, Anthony Davis, Kyle Kuzma and the rest of a roster to fill out once the team is done throwing overboard everything that isn't nailed down in the name of cap space.

One of those spots could be reserved for a big-name free

agent. Some more could be filled out by old teammates of James' like Kyle Korver and J.R. Smith. And one last one could be an old friend of James.

Carmelo Anthony just finished up a season in which he lasted less than a month with the Houston Rockets before the team decided to part ways, then was traded to the Chicago Bulls where he was soon waived. A free agent in February, he never found another team.

He had some interest from the Lakers later in the season, but that went away when the team was eliminated from the playoffs. The Lakers reportedly still might be interested.

The consensus among NBA executives is that Anthony will be suiting up alongside James next season.

Anthony is well-known as one of James' best friends in the league, and playing for

the NBA's newest contender alongside a friend in Los Angeles could be an attractive idea for the veteran.

## Celtics, Mavs could pursue Kemba

Kemba Walker is going to be in high demand as a free agent, and some of the suitors for his services are beginning to emerge.

Walker, who has spent all eight seasons of his career with the Charlotte Hornets (and Bobcats), will be targeted by both the Boston Celtics and Dallas Mavericks once free agency opens on June 30. The Charlotte Observer also reported Boston's interest in Walker on Tuesday.

Walker was selected ninth overall by Charlotte in the 2011 draft and has been a constant for the franchise ever since. He was a steady scorer early in his career and

signed a four-year, \$48 million extension the during the 2014-15 season. Now, after three consecutive All-Star seasons in which he averaged 23.2, 22.1 and 25.6 points per game, Walker is in line for a massive payday.

And because Walker was named All-NBA Third Team this season, he is eligible for a supermax contract—five

years, \$221 million—from the Hornets.

Under NBA rules, other teams cannot offer Walker the same astronomical figure that Charlotte can. However, Walker said on the record that he would consider taking less money if it meant the Hornets added pieces around him in an effort to build a legitimate contender.

## Raptors president 'confident' Kawhi will return to champs

**TORONTO** (AP)—Still absorbing the magnitude of his team's accomplishment, Raptors President Masai Ujiri is confident Kawhi Leonard and the rest of Toronto's core will reunite next season in a bid for another title.

"We're on to the next issue, which for us is coming back and being champions again," Ujiri said Tuesday in his first news conference since Toronto won its first title nearly two weeks ago. "We want to experience this moment here again and again and again."

Retaining Leonard is the most pressing issue. The two-time finals MVP is expected to opt out of the final year of his contract and become a free agent. Toronto can offer a five-year deal worth about \$190 million—one year and some \$50 million more than any other team.

"I know what we've built here," Ujiri said. "I'm confident, and you see how these things go."

Ujiri stressed the main selling points of his pitch to Leonard: health, trust, success.

"I said we have to be ourselves, and we were ourselves for the whole year," Ujiri said. "I think he saw that. I think we built a trust there."

"I believe winning a championship, him seeing who we are, working with his medical staff combined with our medical staff and getting him to where he wanted to be," Ujiri added.

Injured for all but nine games in his final season with San Antonio, Leonard played 60 games this season and another 24 in the playoffs. After averaging career bests of 26.6 points and 7.3 rebounds in the regular season, Leonard raised his averages to 30.5 and 9.1 in the playoffs.

Ujiri says he and Leonard have had multiple talks the past several days, discussions he called "positive."

The Raptors will stay in touch and meet formally once free agency begins Sunday. After that, Ujiri is not worried about how long

Leonard takes to decide.

"I texted Kawhi last night, I talked to his uncle this morning," Ujiri said. "For us, there's that trust regardless of wherever it goes, and there'll be constant communication."

Center Marc Gasol also has a player option for next season, and guard Danny Green is a free agent.

"I think they know what the effect of Kawhi's decision is, but we're really approaching it like we want to bring everybody back on this team," Ujiri said. "That's a priority for us."

Less urgent is a potential extension for forward Pascal Siakam, a runaway winner of the NBA's Most Improved Player award. The parties plan to meet during the summer league.

"Pascal has gotten to a place where he's definitely a priority for us and it's definitely going to be a conversation that we'll have," Ujiri said.

Ujiri said little about his confrontation with a deputy following the Game 6 clincher. The deputy's lawyer, David Mastagni, says his client is on medical leave with a concussion and jaw injury and is considering a lawsuit.

Ujiri says his lawyers are updating him about the investigation.

"I am confident about who I am as a person, my character and as a human being," Ujiri said. "For now, I'll just respect their process there and wait for the next steps."

Asked to address reports linking him to NBA job offers, Ujiri stresses that his family loves Toronto.

"My kids are Canadians," he said. "For me, the blessing is being wanted here and finding a place that makes you happy and finding challenges that really make you grow as a person."

As for celebrating the NBA title with political leaders, Ujiri says the team has yet to decide on a White House visit if invited. He adds that seeing Canada's prime minister would be a "priority."



# Yankees open with 2 HR to set record



**NEW YORK**

(AP)—DJ LeMahieu and

Aaron Judge hit back-to-back homers to begin the bottom of the first inning, giving the Yankees a major league-record 28 straight games with a long ball, and New York held off the Toronto Blue Jays 4-3 Tuesday night.

Gleyber Torres and Edwin Encarnación each poked a solo shot over the short right field porch for the Yankees, who shook off another injury to Giancarlo Stanton and won for the 10th time in 11 games. The AL East leaders are 8-1 on a 10-game homestand that wraps up Wednesday.

Aroldis Chapman allowed a run in the ninth before retiring Freddy Galvis on an easy grounder with two aboard for his 23rd save in 25 tries.

Stanton exited in the fourth with a bruised right knee and was scheduled for an MRI. He got tangled up with Toronto pitcher Clayton Richard (0-4) in the first while getting thrown out on a headfirst slide into third base.

Yankees rookie Nestor Cortes Jr. (3-0) pitched 4 1/3 solid innings in relief of opener Chad Green.



AP  
Toronto Blue Jays' catcher Danny Jansen, left, tags out New York Yankees' Luke Voit at the plate during the fourth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, June 25, 2019, in New York.

scored four times in the third off Milwaukee starter Zach Davies (7-2).

## Athletics 7, Cardinals 3

In St. Louis, Chad Pinder and Marcus Semien homered in a six-run fifth inning, and Oakland rallied to beat St. Louis.

Matt Olson also went deep to help the Athletics win for the sixth time in eight games.

Tha A's, who had totaled nine runs over their last three games, overcame a 3-1 deficit with the big fifth inning to knock out Cardinals starter Jack Flaherty (4-5).

Flaherty gave up a season-high seven runs and nine hits and a walk in 4 2/3 innings. He gave up three homers to raise his total to nine allowed in five June starts. Overall, Flaherty has given up 18 homers in 16 starts this season.

J.B. Wendelken (1-1) picked up his first MLB victory after spending time with Oakland in parts of three seasons.

## Red Sox 6, White Sox 3

In Boston, Xander Bogaerts hit a two-run homer and David Price struck out nine, leading the Red Sox to the victory.

The start of the game was delayed 24 minutes because of rain, which continued to fall—heavily at times—through the first five innings. The slick conditions may have contributed to a frightening moment in the fifth inning when Chicago shortstop Tim Anderson sprained his right ankle on a fielding play. Anderson was carried off the field on the shoulders of manager Rick Renteria and a trainer.

Price (5-2) worked through the conditions for six innings, permitting three runs and eight hits. Brandon Workman pitched the ninth for his third save.

## Phillies 7, Mets 5

In Philadelphia, Maikel Franco hit a go-ahead two-run homer for the second straight game, powering the Phillies to the victory.

Brad Miller, Scott Kingery and Rhys Hoskins also connected as Philadelphia earned its second straight win since losing seven in a row.

Franco hit a shot to right off Wilmer Font (1-2) for his 18th homer, lifting the Phillies to a 6-5 lead in the sixth inning. Miller made it back-to-back shots when he went deep for a pinch-hit homer.

## Nationals 6, Marlins 1

In Miami, Max Scherzer struck out 10 in eight innings and won his fifth straight start to lead Washington.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner also had two hits and scored twice.

Scherzer (7-5) is 5-0 with a 0.92 ERA over his last seven starts and has fanned exactly 10 in three straight games. He allowed five hits and one run while throwing 71 of 94 pitches for strikes.

Trea Turner hit a three-run homer and Juan Soto knocked in two runs for the Nationals, who have won six of eight.

## Padres 8, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Manny Machado marked his return to Camden Yards with a performance reminiscent of his time with the Orioles, hitting a long homer and driving in two runs to lead San Diego.

Machado played seven years with the Orioles before being traded last July, months before becoming a free agent. The third baseman signed a 10-year, \$300 million contract with the Padres in February.

Machado received a standing ovation from many in the crowd of 21,644 before striking out in the first inning.

## Dodgers 3, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Enrique Hernandez hit his sixth career leadoff

home run and Justin Turner added a solo shot to power Los Angeles.

Hernandez hit a 0-2 pitch out to left off Robbie Ray (5-5) to open the game and Turner hit his off the left-hander in the sixth inning. Chris Taylor drove in the go-ahead run on a double two batters later.

Julio Urias (4-2) allowed a hit in three innings in relief of Ross Stripling, who was on a limited pitch count in his return to the rotation. Kenley Jansen worked around Nick Ahmed's two-out single and stolen base in the ninth for his 23rd save.

## Braves 3, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Ozzie Albies and Ronald Acuña Jr. homered, Max Fried pitched six innings of two-hit ball and Atlanta beat the Cubs.

Acuña crushed the first pitch of the game from Cubs rookie Adbert Alzolay into the left-field bleachers for his 19th homer of the season. Albies hit a towering two-run shot to right center off Mike Montgomery (1-2) in the seventh that gave Atlanta the lead.

Fried (9-3) struck out eight, walked a season-high five and allowed two runs in winning his second straight start.

## Royals 8, Indians 6

In Cleveland, Hunter Dozier's grand slam capped Kansas City's stunning five-run rally

in the ninth inning off Indians closer Brad Hand.

Hand (4-3) was a perfect 22 for 22 in save chances. But the left-hander did not record an out against the Royals, who entered the ninth down 6-3 before storming back.

Nicky Lopez had an RBI infield single before Kansas City loaded the bases and Dozier connected on Hand's first pitch for his first career grand slam and 13th homer.

## Rangers 5, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Jesse Chavez pitched into the seventh inning in his longest outing in over two years, and Texas beat the Tigers.

Detroit has lost 18 of its last 20 home games, and that does not include a game last month that was suspended with the Tigers trailing.

Chavez (3-2) allowed an unearned run and five hits in 6 1/3 innings, striking out seven with no walks. It was his longest outing since he went seven innings on June 16, 2017.

## Astros 5, Pirates 1

In Houston, Yuli Gurriel and Alex Bregman homered to back up a solid start by Gerrit Cole in his first meeting against his former team, and the Astros beat Pittsburgh.

Cole (7-5) yielded seven hits and one run in six innings against the team which drafted him first overall in 2011 and

where he spent five seasons before a trade to Houston before last season. Cole struck out three and walked two as he won his third straight decision.

## Twins 9, Rays 4

In Minneapolis, Eddie Rosario had four hits, Willians Astudillo added three hits and Minnesota extended Blake Snell's troubles.

Jonathan Schoop and C.J. Cron hit solo homers for Minnesota, which got to Snell (4-7) for seven runs and 11 hits in just 3 1/3 innings.

Kyle Gibson (8-4) allowed four runs and seven hits in seven innings as the Twins won for the third time in four games.

The Twins scored three runs in each of the third and fourth innings to chase Snell, with Rosario tallying an RBI single in each.

## Mariners 8, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Daniel Vogelbach hit a two-run homer to lift Seattle past the Brewers for the Mariners' first interleague win in five tries this season.

Marco Gonzales (9-6) pitched five innings to earn his fourth consecutive win for the Mariners, who are playing at Miller Park for the first time since 2010. Four Mariners' relievers shut out the Brewers over the final four innings.

After the Brewers got a run in the first, the Mariners

## Giants 4, Rockies 2

In San Francisco, Madison Bumgarner struck out 11 batters in six innings and also drove in a run with an RBI single that helped lead the Giants.

Bumgarner (4-7) bounced back from a rough start with a sharp performance in what could be an audition for a contender looking to add a proven playoff performer down the stretch. Bumgarner retired the first 10 batters he faced with six strikeouts before allowing a solo homer to Ian Desmond.

The only other run he gave up came in the sixth inning when left fielder Alex Dickerson appeared to lose a fly ball by David Dahl in the lights.

## Angels 5, Reds 1

In Anaheim, Tommy La Stella hit a leadoff inside-the-park homer and Luis Rengifo added a three-run shot for Los Angeles.

Pinch-runner Wilfredo Tovar tagged up and scored from second on Shohei Ohtani's long fly to left in the seventh inning for the Angels (40-40), who opened their homestand by getting back to .500 with their fifth win in eight games.

Joey Votto homered for the Reds, who have lost three straight for only the second time since mid-April. Yasiel Puig and manager David Bell were ejected for arguing in the sixth.



# Neymar accepts paycut in 'verbal agreement' with Barca



Brazil's Neymar, left, and Belgium's Kevin De Bruyne go for a header during their quarterfinal match at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the Kazan Arena, in Kazan, Russia, Friday, July 6, 2018.

**MADRID**—Neymar is ready to cut his salary by 12 million euros to leave Paris Saint-Germain as part of a "verbal agreement" reached between the Brazilian and Barcelona, according to reports in the Spanish press.

PSG are yet to sanction the sale of their star striker, who they paid a world record 222 million euros to sign from Barca only two years ago.

But Neymar is reportedly eager to return to Spain and Barcelona are prepared to take him back, with Spanish sports newspaper Diario Sport claiming a five-year contract has been agreed.

The newspaper says the terms include Neymar reducing his salary from around 36

million euros at PSG to the 24 million euros he received at Barca in 2017, while also dropping his 26-million euro court case against the Catalan club.

Neymar claims he was due the amount before leaving as a loyalty bonus.

Barcelona sports newspaper Mundo Deportivo has reported Neymar will also have to make a public apology to the club's fans for the manner of his departure.

The 27-year-old had spent four years at Camp Nou, winning the Champions League in 2015 and two La Liga titles. He had formed a brilliant attacking trio alongside Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez.



Any return for Neymar would likely require Barca to raise funds through sales. Antoine Griezmann is expected to join from Atletico Madrid for 120 million euros while Frenkie de Jong has already signed for 75 million euros from Ajax.

In other developments, Barcelona has sold Portugal midfielder Andre Gomes to Everton, while Netherlands goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen is set to join Valencia.

Barcelona says Everton will pay 25 million euros (\$28 million), plus variables, to keep the midfielder who last season played on loan with the Premier League club.

Cillessen, backup to Barce-

lona's Marc-Andre ter Stegen who had been seeking more playing time, is already in Valencia to sign his contract with the Spanish club, though the deal has not been made official yet.

## Mbappe wants to play at Euro 2020 and Olympics

Meanwhile, Kylian Mbappe is looking forward to a busy summer in 2020.

The 20-year-old France forward, who helped his national team win the World Cup last year, wants to play at both the 2020 European Championship and the Tokyo Olympics.

Soon after France qualified for the Olympic tournament

by reaching the semifinals at the European Under-21 Championship this week, Mbappe wrote "Tokyo 2020" on Twitter accompanied by a joyful emoticon.

The Paris Saint-Germain striker had already expressed his interest in the Olympic tournament. Although Mbappe has never played for his country's under-21 team, he would be eligible for the Olympic squad despite not being involved in the qualification competition.

French soccer federation president Noel Le Graet told Le Parisien newspaper this week it would be up to coach Sylvain Ripoll to decide.

"It's nice that Kylian can say that," Le Graet said. "It shows he is interested in all France teams, and especially in the Olympics. Once again, it's nice. But we will need to meet him, and ask the question to Sylvain Ripoll. The decision will belong to him."

FIFA rules, however, stipulate that clubs are not obliged to release players for the Olympic tournament.

If France qualifies for the European Championship, Mbappe could be playing matches until July 12, the date of the final in London. That is only 10 days before the Olympic tournament kicks off in Japan

## SBL kicks off season Saturday

The 2019 Saipan Baseball League will open this Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



they collide in the 9am match. Then in the second game at 1pm, it will be Team Rockies versus Aces.

Six teams, led by defending champions Chalan Kanoa Bears, will be vying for the championship. Out to challenge the Bears are Go See Mark, Aces, Team Rockies, Blue Jays, and Mariners.

League matches will be played only on Saturdays and there will be three games per weekend.

Last year's finalists, the Bears and GSM, will kick off the action this Saturday as

For the last match in the triple-header at 4pm, the Blue Jays will take on the Mariners.

Participating teams are requested to turn in the league requirements, including copy of the roster and entrances fees, before the Saturday matches.

This season's competition will be used by SBL to select the players that will represent the CNMI in the 2019 Micronesian Baseball Classic, which will be held in Guam later this year. (PR)

## KANOA

From Page 28

in the 49th minute, cutting Kanoa's lead again to one. But that was it for MP United, as Kanoa hung on in the last minute to preserve the win.

In the other game last weekend, TanHoldings pulled away in the second half for the easy win.

TanHoldings tallied three goals in the final 25 minutes of play with Jessica Ortizo, Maggie Chavez, and Eun Benavente contributing one each.

Ortizo and Chavez also hit the board in the first half, while Matansa-1's lone goal was courtesy of Nang Aldrich.

Meanwhile, the last set of games in the masters division for the spring season will be played this Sunday. In the first game at 4pm, Matansa-2 will take on MP United, while in the second tiff at 5:15pm, Top-notch will challenge TanHoldings. Kanoa and Matansa-1 will close out the season, as they collide in the third match at 6:30pm.

## GOLFERS

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"We don't know if it's a resort type just like what we are use to here at Laolao. We don't even want to ask someone from Samoa because we also don't know his skill level so his assessment on the course may not be accurate," said Camacho.

"Right now, we are just low-

ering our expectation, as far as the condition of the course is concerned. The course is definitely our biggest challenge, but we're prepared for the worst. We will see it for ourselves and hopefully we could adjust quickly," he added.

Camacho will be joined in the Pacific Games by Ryan Kim, Sebastian Camacho, J.J. Atalig, and Marco Peter.

Though they are concerned about the condition of the course, Joe said they are all set for the competition.

"I am pretty satisfied with how we are playing and training. We're very prepared," the team captain said.

Joe finished third in the Championship Flight of the Joten tournament, while Atalig was the winner of the division.

scored two runs at the top of the fourth. Dylan Santos was the starting pitcher for the CNMI and worked the mound for 3.3 innings. Greg Tebit and Joey Vincent Dela Cruz also hurled for the Gregorio T. Camacho-managed team.

Chinese-Taipei added six more runs at the top of the fifth, while the CNMI failed

Kim, Camacho, and Marco Peter also earned notable finishes in at least two of the three to four tournaments they competed in this year as part of their preparations for the Pacific Games.

The golf competition in Samoa will be held from July 10 to 13 with the CNMI going up against 13 other nations and vying for four medals at stake in the event.

to counter to kiss its playoff bid goodbye.

Despite the loss, the CNMI held Chinese-Taipei to its lowest output in the elimination round. The Pool B top finisher routed New Zealand, 16-0; crushed Vietnam, 18-0; and whipped Hong Kong, 15-0. Chinese-Taipei was only 5-for-23 at bat in their game against the CNMI.

## CNMI

From Page 28

Chinese-Taipei in the semifinals after earning a 2-2 mark and beating the CNMI and New Zealand in the tiebreak. In Pool A, host South Korea (4-0) and the Philippines (3-1) are the Final Four qualifiers and their semis matches against Hong Kong and

Chinese-Taipei, respectively, will be played today.

The Commonwealth, on the other hand, is scheduled to duel Thailand in the consolation match this morning.

The CNMI, which topped Vietnam and Hong Kong over the weekend, shut down Chinese-Taipei in the first three innings before the eventual semifinalist

players inside out. I know that we weren't 100 percent today and the objective is to hit that 100 percent for the next game," Diacre said through a translator. "Will this happen? I don't know. I don't have a magic wand. I don't have a crystal ball. I can't see into the future. But it's something that we're working on."

U.S. coach Jill Ellis acknowledged the final-in-the-quarterfinals feel to Friday's match.

"I truly believe this is the world game for women, and so what a showcase piece. I'm sure a lot of people would like it later in the tournament, but it is what it is," Ellis said. "Myself and probably Corinne are both like, 'We've got good players, good teams and good setups, so let's go for it.'"

## 1 VS 7

From Page 27

France also got a tough test out of the way.

Les Bleues finished atop their group with three wins before surviving their knockout opener. Captain Amandine Henry redirected Amel Majri's free kick for a tiebreaking goal in the 107th minute of a 2-1 victory Sunday night in Le Havre. Valerie Gauvin, whose first-half goal was disallowed in a video review, put France ahead early in the second but Thaisa tied the score 11 minutes later for No. 10 Brazil.

Afterward, French coach Corinne Diacre was critical of her team, saying, "We weren't at our best."

"Obviously, I know my



# Dutch cap Europe's dominance by ousting Japan

**RENNES, France (AP)—**Tears were still flowing from Saki Kumagai's eyes more than 30 minutes later.

With victorious Dutch rivals passing her on the way out of the stadium, Japan's captain seemed to find solace in speaking about the penalty long after it cost her team a place in the quarterfinals of the Women's World Cup.

With Tuesday night's game entering the 90th minute locked at 1-1, Kumagai's outstretched left arm blocked the shot Vivianne Miedema had aimed into the right side of the net.

"It had my hand for sure," Kumagai said. "It's difficult to accept but it's also sad. I know that is football."

Referee Melissa Borjas pointed to the penalty spot and Lieke Martens netted her second goal of the game in the 90th minute to seal a 2-1 victory that sent the Netherlands into the quarterfinals for the first time.

"We have made history," Martens said. "I'm not usually taking the penalties but I felt really good this game. I asked Sherida Spitse if I could take it and she gave it directly to me and I felt quite relaxed about it."

The reigning European champions will need to maintain that composure as they prepare for a meeting with Italy on Saturday after going one stage further than their Women's World Cup debut four years ago.

"We were standing in the circle after the match and we were so happy, yelling at each other," Netherlands coach Sarina Wiegman said. "We were saying, 'Let's continue writing history.'"

It is journey's end for Japan, which won the 2011 tournament and was the runner-up four years later.

The strength of the second-half display counted for nothing. As befitting a meeting of the



Netherlands' Vivianne Miedema, right, kicks the ball away from Japan's Nana Ichise and Narumi Miura, left, during the Women's World Cup round of 16 soccer match at Roazhon Park, in Rennes, France, Tuesday, June 25, 2019.

Asian and European champions, the game produced some of the slickest action of the World Cup. A backheel flick set up Martens to send the Dutch in front in the 17th minute and Yui Hasegawa equalized in the 43rd to complete a slick passing move.

But the post, crossbar and goalkeeper Sari van Veenendaal thwarted Japan's pursuit of a winning goal.

"I think we lacked the clinical edge," Japan coach Asako Takakura said. "We have to accept the result, we're defeated, we're very disappointed and for all the players I feel very sorry for them and frustrated."

With the last Asian team

eliminated, the Women's World Cup will have a record seven European teams in the quarterfinals. Norway and England meet in Le Havre on Thursday and France takes on the United States the following night. After the Netherlands plays Italy on Saturday, Germany and Sweden will meet.

"It's really tough to be here," Netherlands forward Miedema said. "Sometimes it kind of feels like a Euros."

That is a title already won by this team, thanks to Miedema's goals in the final two years ago on home soil.

The fans won't have far to travel for the World Cup quarterfinal, with Valenciennes around two hours' drive from

the Netherlands.

It will be another chance for the orange-clad fans who danced and sang their way in a convoy to the stadium on Tuesday to stamp their mark on this tournament.

They were certainly given a game to savor, and an audacious opening goal.

Martens flicked in the opener after evading her marker to meet a corner and send the ball through the legs of Yuika Sugawara into the net.

Sugawara had a quick chance to tie, only to hit the post. But Japan did equalize by completing an intricate move.

Hina Sugita squared across the penalty area to Yuika Sugawara, who passed back to

Mana Iwabuchi on the edge of the penalty area. After holding off Jackie Groenen on the turn, Iwabuchi slipped the ball through to Hasegawa, who was free to delicately dink a shot over Van Veenendaal into the corner of the net.



## Italy 2, China 0

Italy made its case to be considered a contender in the Women's World Cup after a convincing 2-0 win over China.

Coach Milena Bertolini believes Italy is set to play in its first quarterfinal since 1991 because her players are striving for a goal that goes beyond the final result.

"They have a mission. Their mission is to try and have the Italian public to discover and appreciate the women's game," Bertolini said. "This aspect helps you because it allows you to find that extra energy and motivation. I really believe this side has allowed the women's game to break new ground back home."

Italian viewers have had good reason to tune in. While the men's team failed to qualify for last summer's World Cup in Russia, the women are proving to be a revelation in France.

China had only allowed one goal in its three group stage games but the talented Italian attack broke down the vaunted defense.

Valentina Giacinti scored in the 15th minute. Aurora Galli's long strike put the result beyond doubt four minutes after halftime at the stiflingly hot Stade de la Mosson.

Italy will play the Netherlands on Saturday in Valenciennes after the Dutch beat Japan 2-1 on Tuesday night. Germany and Sweden will meet in the other quarterfinal on Italy's side of the bracket.

China coach Jia Xiuquan seemed to put his future in doubt after his team exited with just one goal scored in the tournament, saying "maybe it is time to take a break."

## 1 vs 7: US against Europe

**RENNES, France (AP)—**With Japan and China eliminated, the Women's World Cup will have a record seven European teams in the quarterfinals.

Norway and England meet in Le Havre on Thursday and France takes on the United States the following night. After the Netherlands plays Italy on Saturday, Germany and Sweden will meet.

It wasn't just the fans who were looking forward to a quarterfinal clash between France and the defending champion United States at the Women's World Cup. Megan Rapinoe clearly was, too.

"I hope it's huge and crazy. That's what it should be," Rapinoe said just after the match was set. "This is the best game, this is what everybody wanted. I think we wanted it, seems like they're up for it, you guys are of course up for it, and all the fans."

While the players said the focus for the United States was always on one game at a time, Rapinoe voiced the underlying truth about the match in Paris on Friday: It was circled on everyone's World Cup calendar since December's draw.

"It's going to be totally awesome. This is what everybody wants. And these are the biggest games that you kind of dream about as a kid," Rapinoe said.

The United States advanced with a physically challenging win over Spain in the round of 16, while

France scored in extra time to get past resilient Brazil.

The top-ranked U.S. team breezed through its group stage at the World Cup, pouncing on Thailand 13-0 before more balanced victories over Chile and rival Sweden. But Spain posed a challenge to the three-time champions, relentlessly targeting Alex Morgan and using brawn to counter the Americans' superior speed.

Rapinoe scored on a pair of penalty kicks for the 2-1 victory in Reims on Monday night, although the game-winner in the 75th minute was the result of what many thought was at best minimal contact between Spain's Virginia Torrecilla and Rose Lavelle. The foul was confirmed after video review.

Lavelle insisted afterward: "I didn't flop."

Players said the difficult match was crucial to the team's preparation going into the quarterfinal against the fourth-ranked French, the first time the U.S. has faced the host in a World Cup. The Americans could also face No. 3 England if they go through to the semifinals.

"I think this game was extremely important to us, looking forward to France," Morgan said. "It was a very challenging game and it showed a little bit of what we might see in France, so this was an important stepping stone for us looking forward."

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Rockets to  
pursue sign-and-  
trade for Butler

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Dutch cap Europe's  
dominance by  
ousting Japan

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Golfers up for unfamiliar course

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The CNMI Golf National Team sees an unfamiliar golf course as the challenge more than its competitors in the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa.



XV PACIFIC GAMES

“We have no idea what the course is like,” player/coach Joe “Kamikaze” Camacho said last Saturday after competing in the 2019 Joteten Memorial Golf Classi on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The golf event in the Pacific Games will be held at the Royal Samoa Golf Course. Royal Samoa is an 18-hole, par 72, 5,445-yard facility located in Fagali'i, which is about five kilometers southeast of the main hub of the Games—Apia. It started as a nine-hole course and though no definite description of the course is available, golf sites' reviews say it boasts of a hilly terrain with the par-5 No. 1 hole the longest at 474 yards and the par-3 No. 13 the shortest at 126 yards. No. 9, 11, and 16 are the other par-5 holes.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ryan Kim, seen here chipping a shot during a local tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, will be joining Joe “Kamikaze” Camacho, J.J. Atalig, Marco Peter, and Sebastian Camacho in Samoa to represent the CNMI in the 2019 Pacific Games.



## Kanoa, TanHoldings win



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TanHoldings Football Club's Jessica Ortizo, left, anticipates a pass intended for Matansa-2's Elna Curate during an earlier game in the 2019 Dove Spring Women's Futsal League at the TSL Sports Complex. Ortizo scored two goals in their 5-1 victory over Matansa-2 last Sunday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**Dove** Women's League

Kanoa Football Club and TanHoldings Football Club notched contrasting wins in the 2019 Dove Spring Women's Futsal League last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

TanHoldings played in the curtain-raiser and cruised past Matansa Football Club-1 in their penultimate game, 5-1. In the last match of the triple-header, Kanoa edged MP United, 4-3, while Matansa-2 got a free win after a no-show from Topnotch in the second game.

Merlie Tolentino scored two goals for Kanoa, including the insurance two minutes before the close match wrapped up. Her first goal came in the 29th minute, handing Kanoa a 3-1 lead. Kanoa's earlier two goals were courtesy of Elsa Zapanta and Melanie Santos, who found the back of the net in the fifth and 34th minute.

Laarni Zapanta also scored in the 34th to end MP United's long silence, while her goal in the 46th threatened Kanoa before Tolentino's conversion two minutes later gave their

team more breathing room. Laarni made it three in a row when she hit her target anew

See KANOA on Page 26

## Chinese-Taipei eliminates CNMI



The CNMI Majors All-Star Team players pose for a photo after their game against Chinese-Taipei in the 2019 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament yesterday at the Hwaseong Dream Park in Seoul, South Korea.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The CNMI Majors All-Star Team held its ground against the highly favored Chinese-Taipei in the first three innings before yielding and bowing out of contention in the 2019 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament yesterday at the Hwaseong Dream Park in Seoul, South Korea.

Chinese-Taipei earned an 8-0 victory over the Commonwealth bets to sweep the elimination round in Pool B and advance to the semis of the World Series qualifier. The CNMI finished pool play with an even 2-2 record and the loss to Chinese-Taipei was its second straight after the costly defeat to New Zealand last Monday. Hong Kong joined

See CNMI on Page 26